THE

SECOND PART

OF

ARMATA.



LONDON

JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET.

1817.

London: Printed by C. Roworth,
Bell-yard, Temple-bar.

PREFACE

TO THE

SECOND PART.

THE history of this *Second* Volume is a very short one—The *First*, as my readers must remember, was suddenly interrupted by sea damage to the manuscript, and all that was left of it remained, until about a fortnight ago, in a seemingly irrecoverable state; when it happened that a poor man. of a most squalid appearance, came into my apartment to ask for a morsel of bread. He was worn to a shadow, and held in his trembling emaciated hand a small blue bottle.—"My father," he said, "lived for many years in a garret at Knightsbridge, where he was always to be found amongst his phials and crucibles, mixing together many offensive ingredients, but what they were I know not.—When he was at

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the point of death, he gave me this bottle, saying, I might make money of it, but *how* he did not tell me, as he instantly expired.—This is my honest case, and I have not a single farthing to support me, nor any thing upon earth to give me comfort."

There being so many impostures practised in London, I could scarcely believe this story, but I said to the poor man, that if I could give credit to it, I would endeavour to help him.

"Then," said he, looking up to Heaven, "may whatever is in this vessel prove poison and death to me, if I do not speak the truth;"—and to give emphasis, I suppose, to his faultering voice, as from weakness he could scarcely stand upright, he struck it with violence upon the table, when it broke all to pieces, and the liquor ran over my papers which lay there as much doomed to the flames as any widow in Hindostan.

Our mutual surprize may be better imagined than

than described, when I inform the reader that every word of the writing touched by it became, in an instant, as bright as if it had been an illuminated parchment for a lord mayor on his quitting office.—I preserved what remained in the bottle, which was analysed by a celebrated chemist, and after my manuscript had been restored by a fresh preparation of it, I took measures to secure the discovery by a patent; and the poor creature has been already offered above 200*l*. for the secret, but five times that sum will never purchase it, as it has since been applied to decayed pictures with almost incredible effect.

The chapter of accidents has always appeared to me the most curious one in the book of our lives, and this wretched man may well think so. —*His* fortune was suddenly made, whilst neither *myself*, *nor any others*, derived the smallest benefit or advantage from so extraordinary a chance.—I had positively resolved never to retrace my thoughts, and but for this strange cir-

cumstance, I should have been saved the great trouble of copying, for printing, what I had written, and the public the still greater one of reading it.

I am sensible, indeed, that my remarks are much too short and general, when their objects are considered, and that many of a more interesting nature are omitted; but the truth is, that though I saw enough in Armata to have filled many volumes, I could take no interest in any thing except the very little that had some kind of bearing upon the condition of my country; nor did I write a line but from a desire to make us feel more deeply the value of our admirable institutions, to warn us against the abuses to which the wisest are subject, and to correct a very few mistakes which prevent our manners from being perfect.

In what relates to *the last*, I might have given a *powerful* interest to my *foreign* adventures, by ill-natured allusions *at home;* but as it was my

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wish to reform our manners, it would have been strangely inconsistent to excite an appetite for slander.—The reader will not therefore find a single sentence that can be tortured into a defamatory application; *and I publish this even in the Preface, though it may ruin the sale of my book.*

General remarks upon laws and government cannot be thought to be within the scope of this forbearance; national councils may be mistaken and even disastrous, though their authors may be intelligent and upright.—Neither should the public interests be compromised by silence when the publication of truth may be useful; but there is not a word *even upon such subjects,* that can be construed into *personal reproach!*

Although I have to thank the public for a more favourable reception of what has been already published than it was at all entitled to command, yet I cannot but be severely mortified to find that it is generally thought to be

a romance, and that I am set down as a writer who, for some reason or other, had adopted the fiction of *another world*, to convey some opinions regarding *his own*; a notion which has naturally enough gained ground by the consideration that many things may be put together under a mask of this description, which in a real and grave history it would not be so easy to write.

This is all I have to say, since I cannot be duly sworn as a witness for myself; but I frequently smile when I think of the figure that many people will make very shortly, when the Admiralty shall have sanctioned my applications, and when taxes have been raised for my next voyage, which *unbelievers* as well as believers must pay.—These are *the ways and means* which can alone give credit to my work.

I am not a candidate for literary reputation, and shall bow with submission to our established critics, because their judgments have, for a long

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time, been sanctioned by general consent, evinced by the reception of their works.—They are, for the most part, men of talents and learning, and seem never to forget, that an enlightened people are critics over themselves.—This is the only shape in which the press ought to submit to censorship, and it has greatly contributed to the advancement of literature in Great Britain; it prevents us from mispending our time and our money upon useless or mischievous publications, *and serves as a sample before we buy.* Authors, whatever may be their genius or acquirements, *are the worst possible judges of their own works*, and the great masters of criticism, aware that *for the same reason* they are subject to error, are remarkable for the candour with which they examine publications at all entitled to respect. There are some minor critics, however, who cannot be taught this reserve; but as in the first instance it would neither be just nor prudent for an author to defend himself against criticism, so in the *last* it would be *inhuman.*—An insect upon the most polished marble,

marble, not seeing the structure, but feeling through the minuteness of his organs, that the surface is not even, most naturally magnifies defects; but would a statuary kill him on that account, or a humane naturalist impale him for the discovery of his tribe?

ARMATA.

(CONTINUED.)

By referring to the part already published, it will be seen that, from damage to the remaining manuscript by sea-water, when I was shipwrecked on the coast of Ireland, in my voyage homeward, it ended abruptly thus—

My young companion at the same time called for his carriage, and we set out by moonlight, on our return. As we went along, he asked me how I had * * * * * * .

It may be proper, therefore, to reprint this unfinished sentence, and the Continuation will then begin as follows:

CHAP-



CHAPTER I.

Containing almost nothing.

My young companion at the same time called for his carriage, and we set out by moon-light, on our return. As we went along, he asked me how I had been amused—a question I declined answering, until I could find words to express all the delightful recollections and sympathies of my earliest days—Indeed when I looked down on the ocean which now smiled upon us with the pale lustre of reflected light, the thoughts of home rushed upon my mind so intensely, that without thinking any more of my companion, nor even recollecting his existence, though he was close by my side, I could not help exclaiming, "Oh, England, England!—if ever I might but behold your white cliffs again, I could sit upon the highest of them, and gaze upon your world of waters for ever. Dully uniform to the *eye* is its vast expanse, but, to

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the *mind*, infinitely various—How profound are its caverns which no line can reach, nor the deepest knowledge account for—unfathomable to the philosopher in his closet, as to the sailor upon its surface! Has it always, as now, so curiously indented the land, or have its boundaries been abridged? If its empire has been contracted, did it retire spontaneously, or did subterranean fire invade it, and plant earth within its domains? From whence is the salt that has for ages preserved it? If the moon raises its floods by attraction on the side nearest her, how do they rise up on the opposite, and why on the equator are they at rest? When its tides are thus lifted up, whatever exalts them, and when furious under the lash of the tempest they threaten our shores with destruction, what is it that commands them to return to their beds and to sleep? When smoothed again for the impatient navigator, what is it which directs his course? Whence is it that rude, inanimate matter, even the unshapen stone we tread upon, derives an intelligence beyond Newton's mind, even

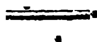
to guess at? Does it point steadily to the poles when in the bowels of the earth, and does it only begin to shift and vary when it comes into contact with unsettled and restless man? The Great First Cause is manifest: but what are the principles which govern such marvellous effects? When the philosopher is thus lost, and driven back within the limits of his faculties, the ocean is not less an object of sublime contemplation; we see it then with all its roaring multitude of waves obsequious to the command of God for the happiness of man—Without it, though propitiation for sin might, by divine mercy, have been accomplished in Palestine, yet all the humanizing light of the Gospel would have been eclipsed, and its benign influence upon our fallen condition must have been lost; the weary foot of the pilgrim or missionary could never have traversed such remote regions; India could not now be hearing the sacred voice of divine truth, and America, instead of starting up, as it were, at once throughout her United States, into civilized and moral existence, might, for ages to

come, have been a trackless desert, the forlorn abode of uncultivated life! May the East, then, and the West, from the rising to the setting of the sun, remember, with eternal gratitude, the blessings that have flowed to them from my beloved country; may they always work upon the pattern she has set them, whatever forms of government may distinguish them; may they bury in oblivion the occasional imperfections which are inseparable from human dominion; and may the Christian standard she has planted amongst the nations be still carried forward to all tongues and people, until they are gathered together at last as a flock under one shepherd, when sin and sorrow shall be at an end!

"If we examine the aids derived from the sea in the progress of society, and the universal comforts which * * * * *"——but here my youthful companion (tired enough, no doubt, of my soliloquy) recalled me to myself, and having no wish or thought but to please me, he

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shook me gently, as you would awaken an infant, and said to me, with infinite good humour and kindness—"Child of another world, we are just at home, and I must take your plaything from you; but since I see you so bewitched, and carried out of yourself by your first love, we will not leave her so soon as we intended, but pursue the margin, or at least the district of the sea, until we approach nearer to the Capital, which is yet far distant." Here my musings ended as the carriage now drove up to his father's house.



CHAPTER II.

The Author is provided with the Dress of the Country.—With Reflections thereupon.

MORVEN soon advanced with his accustomed kindness to receive me, but my gay companion vehemently objected to alighting; saying, he could breathe no longer out of SWALOAL, and from what I saw afterwards it was his proper element, as without being *altogether* what *we* should call a Dandy, he was a young man of the most decided fashion in all her higher circles.—It was indeed with the greatest difficulty I could resist being carried on by him in the night, without rest or refreshment, towards this renowned city, but I expressed so strong a desire to appear only in the dress of the country, that he reluctantly agreed to wait till the morning, and good-naturedly underwent, as a kind of penance, what to me was the highest enjoyment—a quiet supper in a most delightful apartment, opening, on each side, to conservatories, fronting a rapid

stream

stream running through a fragrant garden, with beautiful women, delicious music, and now and then some excellent old wine, resembling our claret, which, let water-drinkers think as they please, gives a varnish to such a picture, which as they never looked through it they cannot at all comprehend.

As I observed that my young companion took but little share in the conversation, and seemed only to speak as if it were to interrupt the singing, I expressed my surprise to him, when humming a tune at intervals to himself, he said to me apart—" I can enjoy all this, my dear absurd friend, as much as any body, in its *due season*; but in *summer*, nay in its very solstice, which, I think, is to-morrow, I would much rather be in town in the dirtiest lodging, almost invisible from the dust and rubbish of old buildings pulling down on every side of me, than be seen here amidst the colours and perfumes of all the trees and shrubs which ever blossomed in our world or in yours, or in that

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one there," (pointing up with his cane to the moon,) "that really looks redder than common, as if she were blushing, to see us loitering where we are."

When morning came, his impatient genius suggested to him a most rapid but seemingly indelicate escape from the further delay of my equipment, as he informed me, with the highest glee, that the barber, who had been setting his razors, overhearing our difficulties, had offered a suit of his own never put on, and which, looking at our two persons, he said would fit me to a hair.—He now directed the young man in his own language to fetch them, saying to me in English, "this I can assure you is a most fortunate incident, as I could not have supplied you MYSELF, having nothing here but this coarse wrapper, my only covering in *the wilderness*," (for so I found afterwards he styled the whole country, or rather the whole universe, out of the sound of a celebrated bell in Swaloal, the name of which I have forgotten:) "HERE," he said, "I

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follow the custom of nature, the beasts of the field know where they are, and have but one suit."

I was too much disconcerted by this apparently strange behaviour to attempt any interruption of this mortifying dispatch, but when it was quite out of reach I could not help saying, that I hoped I should be pardoned for wishing, if the expense would not be an objection, that I might be furnished with what we called, in England, the dress of *a gentleman*, instead of this young *barber*'s apparel, as I had no doubt there were different degrees in a country which his father had described to me as so highly civilized.

" Undoubtedly," said Cathmor, (for this was the name of my companion,) " there are many degrees among us, more numerous, perhaps, than in any other nation, but there are no distinctions in our ordinary dresses; we have *gentlemen*, as you say you have in England, and,

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as you have just seen, we have *barbers* also; but which is the *gentleman* and which is the *barber* when you meet them in the streets, it has been long impossible for the nicest eye to discover, as our highest nobility and our lowest tradesmen dress exactly like one another: there is perhaps something now and then in air and manner, by which people *fancy* they may be distinguished, but in no other way whatsoever.—I expressed great surprise at this, and said that in *my country* such a system would be most unpopular; not from any pride in the higher orders, as the principles of equality, where they could practically or usefully exist, were liberally cherished in England, but because the *lower classes*, who might seem to be exalted, would, with *one voice*, exclaim against it, as injurious to trade, as destructive to manufactures, and a cruel oppression of the immense multitudes who only lived by hourly changing fashions, which circulate superfluities amongst the industrious poor; and though sumptuary laws were inconsistent with our free government, yet an English nobleman would

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be the subject of very unpleasant remarks, who did not maintain his pre-eminence even, in his most ordinary appearance, for the circulation of wealth, and the encouragement of ingenious arts. "I could almost swear," he replied, "that you were describing *this very country* even less than *fifty years ago;* as I have heard from my father that, *even in his time*, persons of rank were stupid enough to wear lace and embroidery, and other expensive fabrics, in their daily habits, but we have a damned deal more taste now, and they are never beheld except in the palaces of princes, and when you see them there hereafter, you will think that, notwithstanding their absurd unwieldiness, the whole court was engaged in some distant military expedition, as every one of them wears a sword, and carries a kind of knapsack upon his back.—I am happy, however, the subject has been started, as I should have been much distressed if you had been left for a moment to imagine I had not intended to give you the full benefit of every distinction which a stranger of rank and honour ought to command."

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He then left me, but first taking me kindly by the hand, and saying he would return as soon as he had got rid of some vulgar people who were waiting to see him.--He had not been gone a moment when the barber re-appeared, but without the clothes: he walked about the room, without taking the smallest notice of me, until upon my friend's return, whom I had apprized of my disappointment, they came up to me together, laughing immoderately and *most obviously at my expense*, Cathmor holding his sides from the convulsion of his mirth, whilst he said, or rather attempted indistinctly to say to me, "My good friend, *this is not the barber*, as you imagined, but one of the highest of our *grandees*, who is come down to visit a relation on board the fleet."—What rendered this sufficiently absurd scene more completely ridiculous, was the return at the same moment of the actual *barber* himself; and when he had laid down his bundle, the nobleman and the shaver were like brothers; no more to be distinguished than twins are even by midwives at their births.

**Handy Dandy, which is the justice,
Which is the thief.—**

I mean no kind of disrespect to the grandee of Armata or to his DOUBLE, by this *classical* quotation.

At the conclusion of this laughable adventure, Morven, the father, joined us, and resumed the subject of *costume*, but upon a very different principle, saying to me gravely, and as if he was not quite pleased—" I sent for this young man as an agreeable companion, to shew you the face of the country and its fashions, to which I am now quite unequal; but you must think for yourself on many subjects where his youth and inexperience would lead you far astray: the matter which he has been treating as a mere jest, is of great moment, so much so, that I am anxious to hear how it is considered with YOU, where wisdom seems to station every thing in its appointed place."

Flattered not a little by this just remark, and wishing,

wishing, from a national vanity, to keep up the contrast between our countries, I asked him whether they had any robes of magistracy, which in England were found to be so highly useful in impressing the multitude with respect for the administration of government and justice.

" We have them," answered Morven, " even in the lowest of our courts; and not only our judges, but all their inferior officers and attendants, have grave and suitable habits of distinction, but which are cast off the moment the business of our councils and courts are over, when the highest of them are to be seen shouldered and jostled in the crowd with the pickpockets whose imprisonments have just expired, and with the culprits they have just amerced.— This is by no means an ancient custom amongst us, but one of late years most ignorantly and thoughtlessly introduced: the robes of justice would undoubtedly be uncouth and out of season if worn as *ordinary dresses*, but supreme judges, and indeed magistrates of every description,

tion, above all, when coming immediately and publicly from their tribunals, should have some *suitable distinctions* to point out their stations, and to continue, by habits of association, the reverence inspired by their dignified appearance when administering the government or the laws. If the robes of justice inspire the multitude with *no additional respect for magistrates*, why are they worn AT ALL? and *if they* HAVE *that effect*, why should the illusion be so abruptly overthrown, by exhibiting to the populace the very same men looking perhaps, *from careless habits*, more meanly than thousands who had but a moment before beheld them with salutary fear? This cannot be politic: but the true touchstone to be applied to it is, to ask *how England considers it?*"

I was so much struck with this strange medley of wise policy, and the total disregard of it, and so set a-thinking on the strange differences between our worlds and nations, that I was unable, *in the instant*, to answer him, but I could

not help smiling to myself at the ludicrous idea of all Palace-yard in an uproar at the astonishing sight of our judges coming out of Westminster Hall in such shabby frocks and brown scratches, as would infallibly subject them to be rejected as bail, in their own courts, *even for ten pounds,* though they were to swear themselves black in the face.

" In ENGLAND," I said, (*recovering from my reverie,*)—" in ENGLAND, we view this whole subject in a very different light; we do not regard it as fit to be governed by the idle fashions of the day, but upon principles from which our government may receive substantial support. Distinctions amongst mankind are inevitable, and when left, as in ruder ages, to an unbridled course, are degrading and destructive; but when adjusted by a wise and liberal policy, each order stands (as you have yourself so well expressed it) in its *appointed place,* society then forms a dignified, harmonious phalanx, and, instead of slavish subjection, or contention in the ranks of

freedom, becomes firm and indissoluble, like substances which are held together by an immutable union in their parts; but it should never be forgotten that adhesions of *human contrivance* cannot, like those which are *natural*, be maintained by silent and *invisible* attractions; the social union can neither be produced nor continued without well considered management *constantly kept in view and in action*: the multitude are more governed by visible and permanent distinctions, than by reflections on what is wise or just; and as God does not always ratify by merit, or by mental superiority, the ranks and honours which we wisely nevertheless bestow upon one another, they should be carefully kept up by a kind of ingenious artifice, like that which is so successful at a masquerade or upon the stage. External symbols of superiority, which have been found by experience to be imposing and effectual, cannot be safely let down even in the most apparently insignificant relaxations, because, though not easily shaken if neither abused nor abandoned, *they cannot be resumed at plea-*

sure when cast off. When a person has once unmasked, his character, however well it may have been supported, is irretrievably at an end; and nothing so suddenly beats down the effect of the best theatrical representation, as to go, though but for a moment, behind the scenes. I disapprove, therefore, of your higher orders casting off their distinctions and dressing like their grooms; it is what we should in England call felo de se, because the levelling consequence is certain; and I have heard, indeed, that at this very moment you are enacting the most severe laws to keep down your lower orders from *advancing upon their superiors*, when, from changes in ancient manners, and by throwing away the most popular distinctions, their superiors have been *descending to them.*

"Governments must be supported upon different principles when their forms are different.—The social union of a REPUBLIC is different from that of a MONARCHY.—*Each* may be equally excellent, and equally consistent with national independence

pendence and freedom; but A PEOPLE must be of a piece with their *institutions.*—Where the laws equalise all the inhabitants of a state, the *laws*, and not the *makers of them*, are the habitual objects of popular respect; but where *privileged orders* exist, as in free monarchies *they must*, the *makers* of the laws are from habit the objects of reverence, *and the laws are reverenced with them.* In a Republic, therefore, the external distinctions we have been discussing would be *useless*, because there are no *distinct orders* to be maintained; but in a Monarchy they are important, because the whole frame of such a state being supported by personal privileges and gradations, if that system were disturbed the authority of the laws would be disturbed also.

"This is, perhaps, exemplified in the magistracy of our City of London, where the elections are popular in the extreme; but being in the very focus of a monarchy, and the monarchical feeling predominating in the pomp and ceremonies which peculiarly distinguish its government, the

 magistrates.

magistrates, though chosen annually from the ordinary classes of her citizens, are held in the highest reverence, and their laws are most punctually observed: but if her Lord Mayor, her Sheriffs, and her Aldermen, on their great public days of festival and magistracy, were to appear in their bob wigs and pantaloons instead of in their ancient magnificent robes of office, and if the splendid hospitalities of her Guildhall and Mansion-house were to be reduced to the common fare (and *set out, as it is called)* of an ordinary or a chop-house, it would soon be like Bartholomew Fair—the dishes would run the hazard of being carried off by the mob, and the guests, however noble, in their surtouts and overalls, would probably be hustled in the streets. On the same principle it is not, perhaps, a prudent retrenchment, and in point of value most contemptible, to abolish offices which from the most ancient times have been established, except when the very objects of them have become obsolete; it is like picking up the pavement and pulling down the palisades which keep

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off the crowd from a great house.—If they affect public freedom, the most efficacious laws should be made to prevent it; but let a monarchical government, when made a free one by popular balances, have *all its ancient trappings*.—To say they are useless, because they have no useful duties, may be a false conclusion.—A critic of this description might reason in the same manner with nature, and accuse her of the most senseless profusion for dressing out a cock pheasant or a peacock quite differently from a jackdaw or a crow.—How unmercifully those poor birds would be plucked! not a feather would be left in their *sinecure* tails. It is not, therefore, in the choice of the high men of my country to depart from those dignities which long custom has established, nor to relax in the visible distinctions which support them, because, since the laws would be degraded by the degradation of their authors, it would be a kind of *treason against the state*.

"England is much too enlightened to be seduced by a false notion of equality into a

system quite alien to the form and character of her government; she knows that whatever gives the greatest stability to her free constitution is the best security the *few* can have for their privileges, or the many for their freedom; and as there has been no instance *(in our world at least)* of a discontented people to a just and prudent government, it would be discreet in the rulers of all countries, before they have recourse to measures of restraint and coercion, to examine well the causes of disobedience and discontent. "*If they look into their own conduct they will find the cause—if they amend it they will find the remedy.*"*

That I may not have occasion to return hereafter to the singular costumes amongst the men of Armata, I have only to add that my clothes perfectly fitted me, and I was not a little amused with my new and double character of a gentle-

* See Lord Chesterfield's speech against the Play-house Bill.

man to those who knew me, or of a barber, perhaps, to those who might not; the ordinary dresses which I afterwards saw in Swaloal amongst all ranks and conditions, were just like my own, and of course so precisely the same that I could not for a long time know one person from another, even after some acquaintance; and when I knew them at last it was only as shepherds know their sheep, by the variety of their faces notwithstanding THE SIMILARITY OF THEIR FLEECES: I saw no cloth worn but of two colours only, though their fabrics are beautifully various, and, indeed, the whole *male* population of Armata seemed to be beaten BLACK and BLUE by that *champion of bruisers*, CUSTOM.

CHAPTER III.

The Author begins his Journey towards the Capital of Armata.—One of the Horses dies from being over driven.—Reflections on Cruelty to Animals.

Being now prepared for our journey, there drew up to the door a light commodious equipage for our conveyance, with animals not very different from our best horses, but apparently more fitted for the course than for the road, and accordingly we set off at a pace which terrified me not a little, and made me so giddy that I could scarcely speak or listen to what was said; and as we continued above two hours in this furious career, the poor creatures that carried us along became so exceedingly distressed, that I asked Cathmor to check the drivers in their speed; but devoted to all my wishes as I have already described him, he gently put me aside, saying "it would be absurd in the extreme to interfere." "Are we then pushed," I asked, "to any particular

hour

hour in our day's progress? the country seems delightful, and we must see it to great disadvantage by passing so rapidly through it." "I feel the force of what you say," answered my youthful friend, "and we certainly are by no means *tasked* to any time; on the contrary, we shall reach our destination long before night; but it is far better we should linger in an inn, however irksome it may be, than not travel in the style and fashion of *gentlemen*—If we went slower we should be taken to be low people of some description or other, and we should lose all the respect with which it is my desire you should be everywhere received."

"You must certainly be the best judge," I replied, "of the manners and customs of your own country; but I cannot possibly comprehend how, when we are masters of our time, it could at all detract from our consequence, that we should appear to consider the health and comfort of those poor animals, without whose strength and willingness to serve us we could not travel at all—

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you must surely see how very much they suffer; and can we answer for this *abuse* to a benevolent Creator, who gave them only for our USE? have they not the same feelings and the same sense of injuries with ourselves, and could you be happy upon this tour of pleasure and satisfaction if you were enjoying yourself through the pain and affliction of any of your *own kind?*"

"CERTAINLY NOT," he answered, "because I should be invading human privileges; but animals have none that the law recognises, and why should individuals run before the law, which defines all duties and protects all rights?" "Is it possible then," *I hastily replied,* "that such a country as your father described to me can be so *shockingly misgoverned?*" "To that again," replied Cathmor, "I can only *repeat*, that it is not for a subject to be wiser, nor more humane, than the legislature which prescribes his rules of action; and if, whenever the laws were silent, or appeared to us to be defective, we were to consider such *supposed* defects to be national mis-

government,

government, and not errors in ourselves, there would be an end at once of all government and law—If the subject, indeed, had never been presented to the notice of our councils, there might be matter to pause upon, as your opinions might, perhaps, have been adopted if duly considered; but the whole subject was brought very lately under their most serious consideration, when all your fanciful notions were rejected and put down.

"Our government is divided into two deliberative assemblies, which must agree upon any law before it can be submitted for adoption to the third estate, which may annul their united decisions—The highest of these assemblies *first* voted on this very subject *as if you yourself had given the rule to them;*—they voted UNANIMOUSLY *that animals had rights*—They declared that it had pleased Almighty God to endue them with many valuable faculties for the *use* of man, and they enacted punishments for the *abuse;*—but the *other* branch of our councils refused to

concur

concur in the new law thus proposed to them, when it fell of course to the ground—Soon afterwards, however, upon further consideration, this very assembly, which had so refused to concur with the other, did *of their own mere motion* originate the very same law which they had before rejected, and sent it up to its original authors for their *undoubted* approbation; but its original authors having been inspired in the mean time (as I ought, at least, to believe) with some new and sudden light upon the subject, did then *in their turns reject it;* or in other words, *denied that it had so pleased Almighty God as they had before with one voice voted,* and wholly refusing to acknowledge any rights in animals SUCH *as they had* THEMSELVES ENACTED, left them to be driven to death in the manner which so much affects you; but let it not therefore be imagined, that our councils denied or discountenanced the just claims of humanity, because, though they refused to enact protection to animals, they admitted *in argument* that it was *a duty of imperfect obligation.*"—" *Imperfect*

obliga-

obligations," I indignantly answered, "are sure to be *imperfectly obeyed*—human laws ought to come in *positive aid* of all moral duties which they can *practically deal with,* and it is impossible to deny that those for the protection of the lower world are of that description, since both the branches of your *most enlightened* legislature (*as you yourself* have related) did solemnly pronounce that THEY WERE. Nevertheless I highly respect your deference as a subject to their united opinions, though they differed at first *from each other*, and afterwards *from themselves;* but such ABSURD inconsistency must not think of travelling into another world for approbation or assent. In England, be assured, it would excite the disgust of an enlightened people, as it now provokes *mine.*"

The account of this strange proceeding accorded so little with what I had before heard from Morven in praise of the councils of Armata, and being forewarned by him not to rely too implicitly on my excellent young companion in matters which demanded the experience of age,

I after-

I afterwards asked him to account for it, which he did as follows :—

" Our great Assembly, which suffers so much in your opinion, has, I believe, no equal in any nation, and like every thing else in Armata, has acquired its value by time and events improved on by the wisdom of our people; so far from being open to any general censure for versatility of opinions, the union of the judicial and legislative jurisdictions has given it a high character for independence and justice; a succession of great and learned men have flourished there for ages, and when I shall have made you acquainted with many of its members, I am sure you will be reconciled to the rest."

" The history of this national misfortune (for so I must consider it) is a very short one. The right of all animals to protection, but more especially of those without whose aids the condition of mankind would be helpless, is a claim so irresistible, that when faithfully stated, it was

sure

sure to carry every thing before it; and when unanswerable in the abstract, it became more affecting by many notorious instances of the most savage cruelties, it is no wonder that there should have been an universal impulse to support it, and that any difficulties in the way of useful legislation, should have been completely overshadowed by the lustre of humanity.

"In this manner, the projected law you have heard of, went down almost by acclamation, to the other council for its assent, where its success would have been equally certain, if the resolutions of public assemblies were *invariably* the results of general conviction; but as the bravest armies have been put to flight by the panic of a single soldier, so the wisest councils, by the influence of individual error, may be turned out of the course of wisdom.—It happened at that time, by an accident which can occur but seldom; because the union of so many high and valuable qualifications is a rare occur-

rence, that a member of this lower assembly had unaccountably connected in his large and comprehensive mind, the brave and manly character of the Armatan people, with sports and exhibitions of the most barbarous description. Impressed with so mistaken an opinion, this extraordinary and amiable person seemed to consider it as a kind of public duty for the encouragement of generous courage and popular freedom, to protect, by his countenance and presence, the too frequent resorts where animals were excited to more than instinctive ferocity, or where his fellow men, without quarrel, were matched almost to murder one another; and on those principles, if they deserve that name or character, he became the vehement opposer of the measure that had been adopted.

"Against an honest feeling of this morbid description, all reasoning was useless; and remembering, as I do, the force of his eloquence, and the influence of that personal friendship which he had acquired with many so justly, and with

none

none more sincerely than myself, I do not at all wonder that his unprepared hearers were for a season at least surprized: and though, as you have heard, they came to themselves afterwards, yet the recovery was too late: a strong sensation had been created, which, extending to the other branch of our government, this high improvement of our national character was defeated;—but the good seed has been sown, and, as often happens in the natural world, lies dormant for a future and perhaps not a distant harvest.

" However extraordinary the observation may appear when applied to a person so justly respected for his talents, yet I can in no way account for such unconquerable pertinacity in so wrong an opinion against all the dictates of his own general good-nature, and the common feelings of mankind, but by resorting to a doctrine confirmed by much experience, that every man in the world *(myself of course amongst the rest)* is so strangely particular in some

 point

point or other, that it may well be considered as an insanity *quoad hoc*—it being, like other insanities, invulnerable to all argument—If the circle in which this absurdity revolves is so very small as to touch nobody, a man is then only what is called SINGULAR in that respect, but if its orbit is extended so as to run foul of other people, he is then called a MADMAN, and is confined."

Another set of the unhappy victims *of imperfect obligations* being now yoked to our carriage, we drove on precisely at the same furious rate, to the great delight of my gay companion, who seemed to sit more erect upon his seat, to preserve I suppose our united consequence, whilst the wretched animals were almost expiring under the lash.—As for myself, I said not a single word during the whole stage, and only offered up my silent thanks to Almighty God that Armata was not my country.

On arriving at our evening's destination, we

saw

saw sitting at the door two poor labouring men, seemingly in the greatest pain from over fatigue; they made no complaint of their employer, who had not tasked them beyond their contract, but they were obviously unable, from extreme weakness, to reach their homes, though not far distant.—Soon afterwards I missed Cathmor; and as he did not return at the hour our supper was provided, I waited for him with impatience, fearing that some accident had befallen him.—It was night when he appeared, and although he put aside all my inquiries as to his absence, yet I saw from his countenance he had been much affected; and soon afterwards the cause of his distress could no longer be concealed, as he was surrounded at the door of our apartment by two large families, who with their poor mothers were embracing his knees, and though I could not understand what they said, were obviously invoking blessings upon his head:—they were the wives and children of the poor labourers whom I found he had carried home, and given them money to support them until they were able to work with comfort.

comfort.—Thinking this a most favourable occasion for trying the effect of human laws in seconding divine precepts, I carried him into the stable, where I had been told one of the poor animals that had brought us was at the point of death: when he saw him in that condition, and was told that the master was just set up in business and had a large family, he said he was truly sorry for him, and desiring the driver to follow us into our apartment, he immediately gave him an order for the value as he called it of his master's *property;* but I could not perceive that the cold sweat and excruciating pangs of the unhappy dying animal had made the least impression upon him. I cannot, however, conclude this interesting subject, without acquainting my readers with the victory of nature and virtue—whilst his feelings were thus so strongly excited by human sufferings, and so striking an analogy was within my view to extend them, I opened my whole battery upon his ingenuous mind—the breach was soon practicable, and humanity entered in triumph—my

companion laid down his arms at her feet, lamenting that the siege had been so long protracted from the false idea that the lower world was beyond the boundaries of her dominion.

I was deeply impressed with this interesting conversion, and have often since reflected upon it with delight.—Nothing indeed in the human character is so extraordinary, or, I might rather say, *mysterious*, as the manner in which the consciences of the most enlightened and virtuous men lie prostrate and dormant under the influence of some ruling passion, or where, from the neglect of public law or domestic education, some particular objects of humanity or justice have not been sufficiently implanted and enforced.—Of the *former*, the divine eloquence of our sacred Scripture casts into the deepest shade every possible illustration: we there see a highly gifted Sovereign living in such general purity as to have been said to walk after God's own heart, yet sleeping in peace amidst the complicated crimes of cruelty, adultery, and

 murder,

murder, till recalled to himself by the sublime simplicity of the Prophet: of the second, the evidence is now before the reader, in a kind hearted ingenuous being of our own species, though of another world—you have seen him shedding the tears of pity over human sufferings, though they were almost at the same moment before him in the most heart-rending shapes, without his feeling them at all.—The animal he had doomed to be destroyed for the gratification of an imaginary consequence, was a creature also of God; his docility and strength were given him as supports to man in his fallen and feeble condition; he was endued with all the faculties, though suited to his inferior station, which were bestowed upon himself; and he felt all the bodily pains, perhaps all the pangs of a wounded spirit, which the proudest of mankind can feel: but public law having been silent which should have proclaimed those truths and have drawn the moral conclusion, he had been left as dead to their impressions as the savage in the desert—but his soul being now laid suddenly

open

open to the light of nature and of truth, he admitted at once all my principles, deplored their imperfect laws which had blindfolded and brutalized their people, adding, that since the period of rejecting their proposed amendment, the most harmless animals had not only been wantonly destroyed, whose mangled carcasses were to be seen daily in the streets, but that savage cruelties to the human species, and even the most atrocious murders, had filled the calendars of their tribunals beyond the example of any former times. I was not surprized at this melancholy communication; the truth is, that *laws* and *laws alone*, are capable of forming and fashioning a people—Divine commands are nothing except as they are engrafted upon our system, and we ourselves should be just as little protected against violence from each other, but by the most penal consequences, enforced too by parental warnings to avoid them.—From not extending corrections for the protection of animals, in cases at least of gross and malignant oppression, children are almost universally cruel,

and

and when they grow up, it is too late to correct them but by criminal justice. Some difficulties might perhaps attend such jurisdiction in the outset, but they could hardly reach another generation; the moral voice of the law would be heard even by infants, when principles, good or evil, are easiest implanted, and which generally endure for ever.

Soon after sunrise we proceeded on our journey with only pleasant and rational speed, and I can now therefore take some notice of the face of this fine island, which I could see no more of during the former day than if I had soared over it in a balloon.—The air was serene —the roads were smooth, and the hourly shifting landscapes beautifully various—delightful undulations of hill and valley enlivened throughout by smooth or rapid waters, and enriched with picturesque villages, through the light smoke of which the distant spires of churches were every where to be seen.—To crown the prospect, the sides of almost all the eminences sloping

southward,

southward, were adorned with the seats of some of the greatest and most ancient families in Armata. I am not sure that a traveller, without being tedious, can say much more of the newest country which he is only quickly passing through.—Remarkable scenery should be viewed *distinctly*, and worked up into pictures by those who know how to paint them, which I certainly do not.

As we approached very near to one of those noble possessions, many of which we had passed, Cathmor said, he would ask permission to view it, which was immediately granted.

As we drove through the plantations on the road to the house, or rather the palace, which stood upon nearly the highest ground in the midst of them, I was quite overpowered with the enchanting scene, and, as my eye glided along immense and diversified masses of magnificent trees, (a collection seemingly from all

climates,) rising in an ascending scale to the lofty summit of what unwooded would have been a precipice, the whole prospect was on a sudden reflected back again, as if by a thousand mirrors, from the transparent surface of a splendid lake, which stretched itself out beneath our feet to a vast extent, until it was lost in the distant woods. I stood for a while motionless, and exclaimed aloud to my amazed companion, in a voice of admiration and transport,—"Where am I? What is it I see? Was Milton brought here in vision, or actually like myself, when he described the primæval paradise of our world?" I shall insert my whole soliloquy, though it makes me appear myself in the character of the DEVIL:—

"So on he fared, and to the border came
Of Eden, whose delicious paradise,
Now nearer, crowns with her enclosure green,
As with a rural mound, the champain head
Of a steep wilderness, whose hairy sides
With thicket overgrown, grotesque and wild,
Access denied; and overhead up-grew
Insuperable height of loftiest shade,

Cedar,

Cedar, and pine, and fir, and branching palm,
A silvan scene: and as the ranks ascend,
Shade, above shade, a woody theatre
Of stateliest view."

To fill up the smaller parts of this fine picture, I would rather refer to Horace Walpole, or Mason, or De Lisle, or still more to the delightful realities of England, than attempt any description of my own; I am not in the habits of writing, and always fall short in expressing what I feel.

We were now placed under a guide to conduct us through this grand residence, *(if residence indeed I ought to call it,)* because, though we met with labourers at every step, in great numbers, pruning the shrubs, sweeping the lawns, and supporting the flowers that were bending to the earth in luxuriant beauty, and filling the air with inexpressible fragrance, I did not see one human being of any description to enjoy this heavenly retreat. I asked my young friend *most earnestly* how this strange solitude was to be accounted for; but before he

gave

gave me any answer, I thought I could observe a look not indeed of contempt, but of that good-natured complacency and surprize which is frequently raised by the questions of children on what they see; regarding me then with a smile, he answered—" Oh yes! it is completely enjoyed in proper times for its enjoyment; but not *at this season:* you are probably thrown out by counting months on your voyage, forgetting that the poles of our planets point in opposite directions, and that though it is now mid-winter in England, *this very day,* as I told you yesterday, would be our *summer solstice.*—What need I say more?—This is not the cell or hut of a hermit, but a mansion for a social being at a very differed period of the year; so much so, that if it were not for your satisfaction, or, to speak the honest truth, that my father has put me about you as his deputy, I would not be found here longer than our cattle can be refreshed, for any money you could lay down."

I was so much perplexed with what I heard, that

that I scarcely knew how to deal with it, being perfectly aware, from every thing around me, that it must be Midsummer in Armata; I could therefore only say, that I was unacquainted with the natural history of her productions, but that all creation seemed to be in the highest perfection; "and do those fine trees, then," I asked, "preserve their beauty throughout the year, or are they leafless in winter which, as I have learned from your father, is often most severe?" He here laughed, and muttered something in his own language, which when I afterwards understood, I could not help laughing also—translated literally into English, it signified, Damn all trees, shrubs, and flowers! and then, resuming our English language, which he always spoke to me, he said, "The trees and shrubs are of course without leaves or flowers in *winter*, and are in their prime *now*;—but what then? Can they converse? Can they dance? Can they sing? If you poured wine upon them instead of water would they live?—or can they move from their places and hunt? Would

Would you, in short, have a man be like a bird, and sit whistling amongst those branches *in the summer*, instead of being in Swaloal—divine Swaloal! where, would to Heaven! we could be to-morrow!—and here let me entreat you to remember, if you speak of this place at all, *(which I very much wish you would not,)* that I only came here under my father's *orders* to shew it to you; if you forget this I shall be completely laughed at, as there are seven balls, four concerts, and thirteen private parties, all of which I have missed to-night by this damned stupid adventure: I ordered my servants to say I was in town, but ill of a sore throat; and though I wish our beds might be prepared for us, yet I am ashamed to put my letter into the post at such a distance from town, because the rascally country mark might dodge us; let me beg of you therefore not to expose me."—Which I the more readily promised not to do, *as he had sufficiently exposed himself.*

Seeing at this moment an immense tree, resembling

bling our English oak, in all the glories of the year, I quitted the path and ran towards it, to sit under its shade; but my companion, in great seeming agitation, called out loudly to me, "Come back! come back! or you will be certainly caught; there are *traps* every where." "*Traps!*" I replied hastily.—"What! traps for men? I wonder no longer at this solitude.—Are you cannibals then, and do you snare your fellow-creatures as if they were larks?" "No, no," he replied, laughing, "we don't eat one another, but we like to be to ourselves when we eat our mutton; and there would be no end of wanderers if we did not catch them by the leg." It was now my turn to laugh, and I could not help telling him, "that if this were done in England, the owner perhaps would be caught himself, and by the neck too, as JACK CATCH might retaliate."*

* Since my arrival in England, I have learned that lawyers differ upon this subject;—but humanity surely dictates the greatest caution in the use of such dangerous protections.

We now reached the house, where we were received, at a magnificent entrance, by a person who seemed to me to be a lady of the most affable and pleasing manners; her gown was like one of our rich flowered silks, but rather of an old pattern, and it had been some time worn; but I was particularly struck with the singular appearance of a very large bunch of keys where our women wear their watches.—I bowed to her with great respect, and asked my friend to present me to her.—" You need not," he said, " bow so profoundly; it would please her far better if you were to look in your pocket for the largest piece of money in it. How could you imagine she was A LADY; did not I tell you there were none here *at this season?* We are not in an enchanted castle; the woman is not made of wood or marble, nor fastened, as you may see, to the floor; and, if she were her own mistress, would soon be far enough off. She is only the housekeeper to shew the apartments, and pray let us make haste through them; they smell damnably after having been

so long shut up, and besides we have a long way to go before night." We now passed through a noble suite of rooms, which were rich, and well proportioned, ornamented with the finest tapestry and the richest brocades: the lustres also were most splendid, and the pictures, which were in magnificent frames, seemed to be finely painted; but the portraits of another world were, of course, uninteresting. She pointed, however, with a very long stick, to many great statesmen, philosophers, orators, warriors, judges, and learned men, and with that appropriate cadence which we hear at Exeter 'Change, when we visit the wild beasts. Throughout the whole of this immense round which, without forgetting my friend's injunction, occupied at least two hours, we did not see one man, or woman, or child, nor any one living creature of any kind whatsoever, except several bats, who seemed, by their flutterings, to have been but seldom disturbed, and now and then a coterie of moths, but who were so busy *at luncheon* on the velvet cushions and

 curtains,

curtains, that they did not even seem to observe us.

When we arrived at the port of exit, I now took Cathmor's advice as to the most agreeable mode of parting salutation, giving our conductress one of the largest coins that circulate in Armata, which she received with a most gracious smile, curtseying to me at the same time till the key of the great hall was stretched motionless on the ground.

We now returned through the plantations by a different road.—I had a fowling-piece with me, the gift of Morven on my first landing, and, seeing an animal run by, with a smell as it passed me that almost produced suffocation, and carrying in his jaws a most beautiful bird, which he was bringing from a field where several bleturs and their young lay torn and mangled, I almost instinctively raised my gun to my shoulder to shoot him: but my companion, holding my arm, cried out with the utmost

emotion, "What can you possibly mean?—How could we answer for such a dreadful breach of hospitality? It is a great favour, I assure you, to see the place, and would you return it by such an outrage as this?" I was almost petrified with surprise; and, holding fast my nose till the horrid effluvia had evaporated, I asked him how it could possibly be considered as an ungrateful trespass upon the lord of this domain to kill a most offensive wild beast, detected in the murderous act of destroying his property.

"His killing the bleturs," said Cathmor, "was *perhaps incorrect;* but it is impossible below the Heavens to have unmixed blessings, and we must be contented to take every good with some alloy of evil.—Those animals, though they formerly infested the country, and still do a vast deal of mischief, are nevertheless bred and preserved at a very great expense for our sport, and you may guess how *impossible it would be to live without them,* when I inform

 you

you that we desert all those natural beauties you have been admiring, though we exhaust our fortunes to create and keep them up,—that we prefer the frosts and fogs of our rigorous climate to its most delicious sunshine,—and abandon even our public councils in the most arduous and critical conjunctures rather than not follow up *the closest scent* of what so much revolts your *ultra mundane nostrils.*—Do you wonder *now*," he said, *as if he had just finished the demonstration of the plainest problem in Euclid*, "do you wonder *now*, my good friend, that the absent proprietor of this mansion would have started back with horror, when told of the outrage which I so fortunately averted?" I listened to all this with silent composure, and taking out my leathern snuff-box, which had fortunately defied sea-water, and in which there still remained some most excellent rappee for the refreshment of my *ultra mundane nostrils*, I put out my hand, under the pretence of thank ing him, but in fact to take the chance of coming in contact with his pulse, as I was now quite

quite convinced he was MAD. Another organ now came in for a full share of delight; as my *ears* were saluted on a sudden with a harsh, frightful, and continued yell, such as I had sometimes heard in the woods of America, when fires were lighted to keep back the wolves—so that if I had not known we were in a reclaimed district, I should have expected to be instantly devoured; and the more so as there was not a soul within a mile who could help us.—The cause soon became manifest in the persons of near a hundred large animals, more resembling our dog than any other creature, but, instead of being of some one hue, or shades of one, their skins appeared as if they were clouted with patches of different colours, which deformed them not a little.—My young companion seemed now quite enchanted, saying, "that as it was a natural propensity always to imagine something beyond realities, he had no doubt that what we were then hearing had given rise to the idea of the Music of the Spheres."—I made no answer, heartily wishing myself *among*

them, without any apprehension of that kind of concert.

The senses, however, might be said, to have been in full *harmony;* as the sight of the motley beasts, with the noise and smell, in such an equal and happy combination, could not but prevent their being jealous of one another.

We now retired to the inn for the night, and in the morning pursued our journey.—Nothing remarkable occurred till the day following, when, soon after sunrise, there suddenly burst upon us, from the summit of a commanding eminence, so sublime a spectacle in the distant view of the Capital, that I thought a second time our immortal poet must have been here before me and described it:—

"——— When, by break of cheerful dawn,
He gain'd the height of a high climbing hill,
Which to his eye discovers, unawares,
The goodly prospect of a foreign land
Just seen, and its renown'd metropolis,
With glittering spires and pinnacles adorn'd,
Which now the rising sun gilds with his beams."

On

On our nearer approach, the country still preserved the same variety and beauty, if *country* it could any longer be called; as it was rather a countless cluster of *towns* almost touching each other, in none of which I could discover any laborious arts or manufactures, but only immense numbers of decorated villas or cheerful village habitations, interspersed with shops of every useful description.—Reflecting here upon the public burthens, which the reader must well remember the account of in the former volume, I could not but be surprised to see AN UNIVERSAL FACE OF GAIETY, HAPPINESS, AND PLENTY.

We now came in sight of a fine river, and passed it by a bridge of incomparable structure, from which, on both sides, we discovered others of great magnitude and beauty, connecting the capital at various parts with other populous districts.

At last we entered SWALOAL; and after being wheeled along many noble streets, thronged with

with carriages of every description and with multitudes on foot, as business or pleasure might direct them, we arrived at Morven's house, instead of that of my young companion, where we found every thing so well prepared for us, that I was happy he had avoided the disgrace of being traced *into the wilderness* by the odious marks of a country post, when it was intended that I should be his guest.

In the evening we had an excellent supper, and I went early to bed, though with very little inclination to sleep, every nerve having been electrified by his promise to attend me next day through the haunts of fashion and delight, which, having never been very distinctly described, the enchantment of novelty was undispelled.



CHAPTER IV.

The Author is introduced to the Amusements and Gaieties of Swaloal.

The sun next day, though there was certainly nothing new for him to see; had finished nevertheless full twelve hours of his diurnal course, before, as I was told, there was any thing *under the sun* to be seen; and it was not, therefore, till four in the *evening*, that our horses were at the door for our *morning*'s ride;—we then proceeded towards the royal park, in the favourite environ of the town, and I must say, that the most partial remembrance of England, as we entered it, raised up in my mind no rival to its beauties.

It is several miles in circumference, and at one end of it there is a royal palace, surrounded with a delightful garden,—to both which splendid demesnes of Royalty the whole people of

that

that free country are indiscriminately admitted, not only in carriages or on horseback, but on foot also.—Indeed, the distant view of it had so raised my desire to see it, that nothing but its real excellence could have saved me from the utmost disappointment.—As we approached the spot, I observed the most smooth and beautiful expanse of lawn in every direction, and quite open, except as it was bounded unseen by the general and distant enclosure, and there were tracks winding through it, which shewed that carriages might almost every where pass.—The whole extent was most happily ornamented with groups of the finest trees, dispersed in the most fascinating variety, and in the full pride of all the foliage of the year.—I could not now help expressing my surprize that not one carriage, though so remarkably numerous in all other quarters, nor any *one individual* mounted, or on foot, were to be seen in any part of this terrestrial paradise, though our view extended above a mile all around us.—My young friend smiled at me, saying, I should very soon be gratified

gratified with a sight within the Royal precincts, far more inviting, which would fully account for the solitude that had surprized me; he added, that there would be but little difference between being buried under the turf in those solitary recesses which had filled me with such rapture, or rolling over them in the most costly equipage.—" Now, now," said he, as we rode onward, " now we come to the scene of true splendour and delight."—At this moment, being still galloping from impatience, we turned short round a dead wall, and the wind being very high, my hat was suddenly beat off, and my head entangled in what I took to be a market-woman's basket of flowers, but which turned out to be only the head-dress of a lady that had been blown out of an open carriage just at the corner we were turning.—As soon as this wreck was cleared away by my friend's assistance, and we were preparing to move forwards, we were involved all at once in a seemingly impenetrable whirlwind of dust and gravel which when mixed with the smoke driven

driven down from the houses just above us, would have made the blackest assemblage of steam-engines at Birmingham or Wolverhampton appear like the gayest palaces lighted up with gas.—Through this dismal medium, my half-extinguished eyes (which so filled with earth in England would have given me a vote for Middlesex) could see only by short snatches sometimes the head of one horse and sometimes the tail of another, with now and then part of a carriage moving on at the pace of a funeral procession, which my friend told me, (for I could see nothing farther,) extended about a mile, but hemmed in on each side, with people riding or rather tumbling over one another. We were now and then stopped besides by vehicles, completely jammed, out of which we could see ladies disengaging themselves, or at least their head-dresses and drapery, looming, as sailors term it, through the mist, and, to keep up the metaphor, flapping against each other like sails and colours in a gale of wind at sea.

My

My friend, I could now observe, was in the highest state of enjoyment; and his countenance being lighted up with all the animation of triumph, he exclaimed, with exultation—" THIS IS LIFE INDEED! Do you now wonder that those unmeaning miles of grass which enchanted you are left to the beasts that perish? Good Heavens! how delightful is this moment!—Why, Sir, almost all the rank, and wit, and beauty, not only in Swaloal but in the whole Island of Armata, are here condensed within less than three acres of ground!—It is indeed the very otto of fashion and charms of every description." " And what then, my good friend," said I, " what would signify the otto of the most delicious perfume, if the stopper were kept in the bottle? and what also can be the delight of beauty when it cannot be seen, or of wit when it cannot be heard, or of rank when all its distinctions are buried in darkness and confusion? Would not the same assemblage of rank, wit, and beauty, if spread out upon those verdant expanses, where people could see and

converse

converse with one another, be far more rational and delightful?" "Not at all," answered Cathmor, "your understanding is overshadowed by the prejudices of your own country; it is in fashionable assemblies as in war—*The close column* does all the execution.—Your favourite lawn is too extensive and distinct.—Nothing pleases when it is fully seen and understood." Here he added a sentence in some other language, the meaning of which I found afterwards to be; *Omne ignotum pro magnifico habetur*—"There must be light and shade, my friend, in every picture."—"Certainly," I replied, but here all is *shade*, and not even a glimmering of *light*."—"Not so," said he, interrupting me, "did you not tell me but a moment ago, that every now and then you could see the head of one horse and sometimes of another, and parts of carriages, as the dust swept magnificently along, some entire and some broken? What, in the name of Heaven, would you have more? Would you see all at once? Perhaps then you would wish the women

to

to go naked, though it is the very secret of love and desire, that something should always be concealed and left for the imagination to supply. Neither do you seem to take into the account *that, even if you had seen nothing at all, you have still been here;* you must know and feel that you have, and even if you *had not*, and wished to have the credit of it, who could contradict you?—all the devils in hell could not deny it. For all these reasons, my dear friend, and for a thousand others, depend upon it there can be nothing in this world, nor, without meaning to be prophane, perhaps in that hereafter, so absolutely perfect, as the scene we are now um

The remainder of my friend's sentence, viz. the rest of the word *umbuging, which in Swaloal, it seems, means enjoying, was here unhappily *broken*, by his bones being nearly broken also; for at this moment he was knocked off his horse by another, which having thrown his

* In the language of Armata it is an aspiration as with us, and not a letter.

rider had run away, the only living thing within at least half-a-mile that was moving faster than a snail.—I was told indeed that a large sum of money had been made by an undertaker, when the town was healthy, *or when people had not time to die*, by letting out his long-tailed amblers for this slow procession, who were accustomed to a pace which other horses could not manage. My friend was not at all hurt, and with an air of the utmost satisfaction, as I was lifting him off the ground, for nobody else could see him for the dust and smoke, he said to me with a smile, "I am not sorry for what has happened; such things give incident and anecdote to the panorama, and are its high light and finish." "Very well," said I, "putting light wholly out of the question, any thing certainly that *finishes* such a scene must be satisfactory. Believe me I should pass for a liar or a madman if I were to say in England that I had seen all this or any thing resembling it."

We now went home to dress, as he had before

promised

promised to introduce me to several great ladies, who, it seems, were to be found within their own houses once in every year, some of the greatest even TWICE—this phenomenon, he said, had been made known throughout the whole city, by beating against the doors of all persons of condition with an immense hammer that moves upon a hinge; and that his own gate having been split a week ago, when the proclamations were left at his house, he thought it was a most fortunate opportunity to present me.

Having heard so much of the beauty and accomplishments of the women of Armata, and this manner of approach to them being so extraordinary and, in point of time, *so critical*, I confess the hours lingered with me till midnight, when he said it might be as well to go, as the principal lady, who lived besides at several miles distant, being a great invalid, kept *very early hours*. We set out, therefore, soon after twelve, and after driving through many

streets we got into a situation to me so perfectly new and terrific, that I suffered more from fear than I thought it manly to express; an universal tumult and conflict having taken place, which I of course considered to be a violent sedition, if not the beginning of a revolution in the government.—The carriages were driven violently against each other, their drivers assaulting their opponents with the utmost fury. I can liken it indeed to nothing but what we read of in our earliest histories, when the ancient Britons used to rush to battle in their chariots.—The contest at last became so violent that I could no longer conceal my alarm, and said quite plainly to my friend, that though nothing was further from my wish than to detach him from his duty in the service of his country, yet that being myself an entire stranger to Armata and its concerns, I neither wished to take any part in its internal divisions, nor to expose my person on either side.—I entreated therefore to be let down without delay, as I should take the chance of finding out his

house

house on foot. Cathmor was most highly amused with my apprehensions, telling me with a smile, and manifestly with the utmost enjoyment of the disorder we were involved in, that there was neither rebellion, nor sedition, nor commotion; nor any other quarrel or difference but that which was most natural and of *nightly occurrence*, from the desire of arriving first at scenes of extreme interest and splendour, adding that I should soon be convinced the pleasure was well worth the contest.—This declaration served a little to compose me, and by the spirit and dexterity of our coachman, who had laid low several of his antagonists, we arrived at a large gate in little more than an hour afterwards, with only two holes through our carriage, which he said might be repaired at the trifling expense of only £30 of our money, and he was happy to add, that the servant's leg was not broken, but was only severely bruised, which a week or two would set to rights in the Hospital, where he had just sent him.—As we alighted, I saw him give a large coin to

 our

our coachman, who whispered him that seven carriages had been broken to pieces, and that *their contents* (as he called them) would be well off if they got up to the door by day-light.

I was now perfectly at my ease, expecting of course to be speedily repaid for all our troubles, as we had now reached the foot of a richly carpeted staircase, brilliantly illuminated, at the top of which and onwards I saw the head-dresses, and sometimes even imperfect glimpses of the faces they adorned, but which seemed to ask no ornament whatever. My impatience was now extreme, from the slowness of our advance—and, on asking my friend the occasion of it, and of the thundering noise above, as if some public proclamation were making—he said it was only the announcing of a very high lady a little on before us, who had been lame with an old rheumatism for above fifty years, but, having seen in the newspapers she was recovering, he had no doubt she would reach the top of the staircase in a quarter of an hour,

when

when the obstruction would cease.—We found, however, to our cost that this calculation was rather sanguine, though it is so difficult to measure time when we wish it to pass quickly, that I shall content myself with saying that we arrived *at last* in the door-way of a magnificent apartment, when I overheard my friend, who was just before me, asking several persons as they passed him to give him some *general idea* of where the lady of the house was to be found, and so impossible was it to have approached her, wherever she might have been, that, instead of a passage being *forced* by any *man* or *woman, putting all ceremony out of the question*, I am confident, that, if we had been at the bottom of Snow-Hill, the most furious bullock, escaping out of Smithfield, would not have made an attempt upon the crowd that was before us—the instinctive wisdom of the brute would have protected mankind in the zenith of this folly.

The heat now became excessive, and nobody

seemed to take any notice of each other, further than the constant repetition on every side of "*Kee see! Kee see! Asmate! Asmate!*" which, I found afterwards, were exclamations, that the pressure of the crowd and the difficulty of respiration were intolerable.—My face was now running down with sweat, as if I had been in a vapour-bath, but without the possibility of having recourse to my handkerchief, both my hands being as completely pinned down as if I had been on my way to Newgate under a commitment for murder. I will fairly own, nevertheless, that amidst all this misery I was so captivated with even the transient view of the most exquisitely beautiful women, that I was making a desperate and despairing effort for a nearer view of them, by an assault upon the door-way into the first apartment, when my friend, pulling me by the sleeve with one of his hands, which with great dexterity he had disengaged for my relief, told me that, supposing I could have succeeded, it was much too late,

as we had five other places to go to, where we might probably see even greater beauties than those who had attracted my admiration. We then retired to a small room at the bottom of the staircase, on the steps of which we had been detained two hours, and, whilst our servants were engaged in finding the carriage, I earnestly pressed him to return home, and to find some other opportunity of presenting me to his friends.—" Friends of mine!" he answered; " Damn me! if I ever saw one of them before to-night—nor care if they were all in hell." Encouraged by this, I now fairly owned to him that I had not the strength nor inclination to proceed any farther.—He seemed much affected with my distress, saying, at the same time, with the greatest possible kindness, that he would most willingly give up every satisfaction of his own for my accommodation, but that it was really not in his power—" My sister," he said, " *whom you have not yet seen,* having had the misfortune to lose her

mother in her infancy, from an overturn at a horse-race," her education devolved upon my father, who is obliged on this occasion to put her under the protection of some kind female friend; now it happens most unluckily that this her Umdrumm," (pointing to a huge woman who stood near us,) "with whom she might go any where, *and do any thing*, being a martyr to corns, and somebody having trod upon them, she can accompany her no longer; and I am obliged to take care of her myself." This dilemma silenced, of course, all further objection, more especially when, on my speaking of *another night* for the remaining parties—"Another *year*, my friend, you must mean; *to-night* will end them all; and, believe me, it would be little better than ruin to a young woman, *after she was once out*, not to be seen EVERY WHERE;—people would naturally say she could not have been *asked*, and that there must be something against her character."

To all this I could only observe, that it was inconceivable to me how a woman could possibly risk her character by taking natural rest in the season which Nature had *universally pointed out*. "Nature," replied my friend, "has pointed out *no such thing*—NIGHT is the season for the *lower world only*;—plants of all kinds, down to the grass we tread on, open their bosoms to the rising sun, and fold them again in their mantles when he sets—Animals, in the same manner, following their brute instinct, rejoice in the light of day, and repose until it returns; mankind also, *taken in the mass*, have the same propensities—a kind of higher instinct, for the government of those who are to live by labour, which can only be done when they can see their way to do it:—the day, therefore, my good friend, is *their portion also*, but NIGHT was made for their SUPERIORS. The stars of Heaven shine forth only in the dark—at day-break they disappear.—Neither is the want of rest, which, from a national prejudice, you are pleased to call NATURAL,

in any manner destructive of health and beauty; on the contrary, I know many women of rank who began this career at seventeen, yet who *now*, at the age of six or seven and twenty, *nay, some even at thirty*, still retain a considerable share of freshness; and, as to *longevity*, putting *looks* out of the question, I know fifty, aye a hundred, women who are far above eighty, and, though constantly in *mobs* from night to morning, without ever seeing the sun for months together, nor ever desiring to see him, yet continue to set death and disease at defiance. Fashion, therefore, my dear friend, gives birth to a species of mummy, which the Egyptians you once told me of never knew."

Finding I had no chance of prevailing upon the topic of sleep, I now tried my chance by suggesting, as the truth was, that his sister's dress was rather disordered; submitting how far it might be decent that she should any longer appear in it; here, however, I was equally unfortunate; my friend expressed the

utmost

utmost astonishment at this new conceit, as he termed it—exclaiming, with his hands clasped together, "What must be the condition of your *vulgar country*—how happy was my father's escape from it into a region of higher civilization! You should know, Sir, if you have the organs to understand me, that there is a picturesque in *art* as well as in *nature*—in the artificial dresses of men and women, as much as in the romantic scenery of the woods; and that the flattened head-dress and torn garment, when their gay causes become manifest, are as sublimely beautiful in the view of sublunary fashion as the rocky fragment or ruined forest in the divinc eye of philosophy, when traced back to the universal confusion of the world." I was quite overpowered with this last flight—I was ignorant of the language of Armata, and there being nothing in our own which could do justice to my unconvinced submission, I could only say, with a most profound bow, "*Vous avez raison, Monsicur.*"

The carriage was now called up, and, after passing through a similar scene of confusion, which was, however, far less alarming when I was acquainted with the causes; we arrived in the street near the house we were going to, when our coachman being thrown off his box after all his victories, from the accident of a wheel being carried away, we proceeded on foot with lights carried before us, a ceremony which cost me about fifty pounds of our money, as my clothes were entirely ruined with a mixture of wax and grease from the lower stars of the earth, which, in Swaloal, light up the resorts of fashion, when the stars of heaven are gone to bed.

At last we entered the proclaimed mansion, more magnificent and crowded than the first; but how will the reader ever recover from his astonishment, when I inform him, upon my most sacred word of honour, and as I hope to dance at the next ball at Almack's, that standing in just such another door-way as the iden-

tical

tical one we had just come from, and sweating again like a bull, with my arms pinioned down as before, in a vain and fruitless approach to my handkerchief, I saw—may I never see an English play or opera if I deceive the reader in any thing—I saw the same individual men and women I had just before seen, and at the same inaccessible distances, unless it had pleased Heaven, for the punishment of a vain curiosity, or rather as a reward for my perseverance, to convert me into a salamander *for the night.* There is always, however, something to be learned, and even to be enjoyed, in this probationary world from every occurrence, however painful. Seeing my friend and his sister obviously delighted, whilst I was *literally dying,* I could not help raising my mind to the contemplation of higher objects, reconciling to myself that the planets nearest the sun, and even the sun himself, might be inhabited by beings in other respects like ourselves, but with organs suited to their atmospheres, or perhaps to none at all, either of which would in a mo-

ment

ment reduce us to ashes, and perhaps shrivel up like a scroll even the world which we inhabit.

I shall not describe the other places we went to, as they were all precisely the same, except that I was told there was at one a celebrated concert, which, being passionately fond of music, I endeavoured to approach; but it being, it seems, a kind of mongrel, between a public subscription and a private party, all access to be within distinct hearing was impossible.—I was in the outermost room, which being open to the air of the passages, I felt myself just able to breathe, but could not possibly imagine how animal life could be sustained in those within, from whence there issued sounds so beautifully plaintive, that I began to think the story of Orpheus was not fabulous, and that he was still at the gates of hell to bring back his Eurydice to the upper world.

We were now on the top of the staircase, (indeed we had never got any farther,) and in

a state of the utmost impatience, as our carriage being broken, we had places in another that stopped the way, when we were detained for half an hour by an accident too ludicrous to be passed over.—The old woman, whom we had been stopped by at the first house *going up stairs,* was now just before us *going down*, and before she had limped half way to the street, our coachman was obliged to drive off, and we had near a quarter of a mile to walk to it in the dark.

Not wishing to distress my friend any further, who was always devoted to oblige me, nor ignorantly perhaps to interfere with his sister's advancement in the world, I suffered myself to be still carried onward, from house to house, until the sun, so odious to fashion, most rudely broke in upon us.

On my return home, I had, for the first time in my life, an opportunity of comparing the effect of fatigue from useful labour, or cheerful recreation, with the lassitude arising from such

a night

a night as I had spent.—Instead of peaceful and refreshing slumbers, the blessed refuge from painful recollections, whilst the body is winding up into recruited strength, I tossed and tumbled in my bed, with shattered nerves, and a fever which consumed me; with images brought into view neither by waking remembrance, nor the offspring of sleep, but partaking distractedly of both; perplexing the mind with hideous phantoms in their pursuit. One *distinct* consoling thought only preponderated—the sweet remembrance of my own dear country.

It can hardly have escaped the observation of the reader, that in the course of life I have been describing, the Armatans could have no natural enjoyment of the summer, nor see much of the light of day.—Yet to assert that nature herself might be infected with this inversion, or affronted by such neglect, would, in this age of philosophy, be a hazardous proposition—but there can be no hazard whatever in stating a fact: if you hatch the eggs of a hen for three genera-

tions,

tions, by the heat of a fire instead of by the parent's incubation, that animal instinct becomes lost for ever in the race so matured, though all the other characteristics of the species are continued: but why or wherefore nobody can tell.—Just so, and without meddling with any theory, I have only to relate, that during the whole time I was in Swaloal I seldom saw the sun, nor was it to be seen any where else in Armata throughout the diurnal sphere; their summers had entirely taken their leave, and gone over to the winter months, which were mild and delightful—Phœbus rejoicing in the sky till the return of spring, when he appeared, as I was told, with a P P C upon his disk.—I need hardly say, that the harvests suffered grievously by this inauspicious transition; but the artificial system of Swaloal went on just the same—Art every where supplied the place of nature, and even excelled her in her happiest days:—the tables of the wealthy were covered with a profusion of the choicest fruits, and a couple of hundred chickens were often seen upon a single

 board;

board; but whether brought up by fire or by incubation I did not venture to inquire; though I suppose that even a hen would have been laughed at *for being at home upon her nest.*

Disgusted with the preposterous scenes I have been describing, I now earnestly pressed Cathmor to exert all his influence for my introduction into domestic life, that I might by degrees acquire the language of Armata, and become acquainted with her unadulterated manners; as I could not believe that a people who had so preeminently risen to be a proud example to all nations in a highly civilized world, could have no discourse for one another, but that it was hot to suffocation, nor any means of forming societies, but by treading and trampling upon one another. My request was speedily granted; but I little thought at what price I was to purchase the pleasure I sighed for.

To give me the entré I asked for, Cathmor introduced me to the fair Morvina, his sister, whom

whom I had never seen but on the crowded staircases, the only situations in which she could be looked at with safety.—I shall not attempt to describe her.—It was now indeed beyond conjecture that Milton must have been shipwrecked here, before he had his blindness to lament.—In no other region could the image of female beauty have suggested the description of our first woman, whose likeness, indeed, shone every where around me in Armata; and, without meaning any affront to Adam, seemed to be improved by some crossing in the breed.

Morvina had been taught our language by her grandfather and father, and spoke it in perfection; but though, from the first moment I saw her, I was overpowered by the charms of her person, yet I little feared any lasting impression, from a being so vain and so frivolous as of course I expected to find her.—How much I was deceived in her will appear hereafter.

CHAPTER V.

The Author is introduced into the private Societies of the Capital.

I WAS now invited to a private dinner of only twelve covers, and remained during the evening, with a party more numerous though select.—The company at both were persons of distinction, most of whom I recognised as having been in the mobs I had passed through, and from whom, on that account, I expected also but little that could amuse me;—but although much is lost when a foreigner can only collect what passes through interpretation, yet the conversation was most interesting and delightful.—Indeed, the WHOLE SCENE, in perfect good manners, in vivacity, and useful information, surpassed what I had ever seen in Europe, many parts of which I had visited in my youth; I can bring of course but a small part of it before the reader.

The conversation, as might be expected, took

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its rise, on their parts, from the extraordinary circumstance of seeing among them, as a familiar guest, the inhabitant of an unknown world; and on my part, in remarks upon customs so very unaccountable, and differing so entirely from our own. There was great restraint and difficulty in the outset, but Morvina, having undertaken the office of interpretess, I ventured, after a few glasses of excellent wine, to ask this question, which, from curiosity or politeness, seemed to engage very general attention:

"With the means and faculties for such pleasant and rational society as I am now enjoying, why, may I ask, are health and enjoyment sacrificed to tumultuous and unmeaning assemblies, which seem to form the grand business of all the rank and opulence of your great city?"

The fair interpretess, after having, no doubt, proposed my question, and conversed for some time with those who were to resolve it, now addressed me in English, nearly as follows:—

 "Although,

"Although, Sir, it may not always be easy to reconcile some particular customs, amongst the most civilized nations, with their general manners and character, yet I am charged to deliver our opinion, that they will be found, in most instances, to have had some reasonable beginnings, though, from change of circumstances, they may appear to strangers ridiculous, or even offensive.—The nobility, and those amongst us of consideration and respect, do not consist *now*, as in old times, of a very few persons elevated to rank by the personal choice of the sovereign, or from having attended his person in courts or in battle, but of many others, rising to eminence in the various ways by which superiority and distinction may be arrived at in a free country—by eloquence and knowledge of business in the superior councils of the state, or by ability and learning in the courts of justice—by great and splendid achievements in naval or military warfare, or having been engaged in useful and perilous service—by the great influence derived from the possession of great

landed

landed property, when in the hands of considerable men who have preserved and added to their inheritances from their fathers, instead of dissipating them by negligence or excess, or by great *personal* fortunes acquired in trade, a source of wealth by no means to be held lightly in a nation which, without its commerce and manufactures, must instantly be overthrown.—There are others besides, who, though not falling within any of those classes, are justly distinguished by science or by the liberal arts, and many more by general good manners and talents for conversation, having visible means to take their places in cultivated and expensive life.—All these orders, when assembled together in our capital, are naturally drawn towards each other, and distinctions of any new kind, much more *exclusions*, would be invidious.—Equality, *properly understood*, is an useful, ennobling principle, and nothing has more contributed to the stability of this ancient and powerful kingdom than the innumerable shades in which all her people are blended.—Our community

munity is like a changing coloured silk—the eye can perceive that there are different colours, but cannot distinctly trace where any one of them ends or another begins.—But this is not *all*—if the imperial sway of this small island were circumscribed, as in old times, by the sea which surrounds it, even all those multitudes might form one society without the crowds you complain of; but you have not considered, nor perhaps even know, the almost boundless extent of our dominion:—the remotest and most populous nations are our subjects—they all gravitate towards Armata—and, when brought within our vortex, a new gravitation commences, and our capital becomes the centre of attraction.—A society so widely extended must always have been rapidly increasing, and could not in the end be conveniently brought together—but greater inconvenience would attend separations.—Our numerous classes, long accustomed to associate with good humour and kindness, might view each other with malignity and envy—the bundle of arrows, an ancient emblem

blem of our nation, would be defaced, and the metropolis, where our duties compel us to congregate, instead of being perhaps too alluring, would become odious from defamation, contention and distrust.

"There are other advantages besides, to countervail defects so new to you.—Connexions formed *here* pervade the whole country, and the influence of the great and opulent, giving fashion to their inferiors, makes friends of many who otherwise might be jealous and adverse, binding them all together as it were by innumerable threads of silk, nothing in effect when single, but stronger than bars of iron when combined.—A state of society so accidental and anomalous must, after all, from the most obvious causes be imperfect—but it contributes, not a little to make the manners of our country what they are, and which we flatter ourselves are better than any other."

Although this defence of the follies I had witnessed

witnessed could from other lips have made no impression," yet it was delivered with so much grace that I felt myself for the moment almost convinced; and it was rather to hear again the sweet accents of Morvina, than from any hope of prevailing with so prejudiced an audience, that I asked her to make *this reply*:—

"To ALL that has been said I not only fully assent, but am delighted with the wise policy which unites the higher orders of your people, whose union connects the rest; and, if there were no better means of securing that friendly intercourse which you have so happily described, I should be the advocate of all I have condemned.—The worst vices are generated in solitude, and the safety of public morals may be perfectly reconciled with all the pleasures which the law allows in this great city.—It would be impious indeed to believe that God had given faculties to multiply our satisfactions, yet that his gifts were only for our temptation, and could not be enjoyed without sin:—but have you

you not various public places of fashionable resort, whose rules are at your command, and which you might multiply without end, making them as select or general as what you call assemblies, though they cannot be convened?—It would be useful besides, for the encouragement of arts and manufactures, that such fine buildings should be erected in your city, and become rivals in taste and splendour; where dress might be seen in all its magnificence and beauty in all its lustre—where, unsubdued by unrespirable air, the worst of all oppressions, the mind as well as the body would be free, and amusements, whatever were their description, be enjoyed with comfort.—When I recommend such improvements *the women* surely must be on my side, for it is in *such scenes* that their most powerful impressions would be made; but NEVER, NEVER, in the haunts where even YOU, divine interpretess, could be seen without emotion—why then, but from the force of truth, should I have reviled the sanctuary that saved me?—Would to God I had never

left

left it! I scarcely know what I am saying—*but happily our language is to ourselves.*"

Morvina was very young and not prepared for this—she changed and re-changed colour; she *half* looked at me but withdrew her eyes, and *half* looked at me again.—She was the first woman I had seen so closely in this *other* world, and I found her to be like all our own. She was not at all offended—no woman is ever offended at being admired, nor ought to be—we are irresistibly drawn towards one another by unknown sympathies, but which, like other mysteries of nature, may perhaps one day or another be understood.

If the fair Morvina had been obliged *in the instant* to resume her interpretation, our embarrassment might have been observed, but her gay brother relieved us by interposing (as he thought) a fatal objection to public places as substitutes for the private mobs. "They might do well enough," he said, "once a fortnight, or even once

a week,

a week, but that oftener they would become C3ϞƸ" (which translated would signify BORES:) " and what, in the name of God, was to become of people *all the rest of the week?*—Were they to be shut up in their own houses by themselves?—This was a scheme quite impracticable, the affairs of many persons requiring insurances upon their lives, which could be done at no premium if such risques were to be run as being at home *alone.*"—I was thrown out at first by this remark, but I found afterwards that *suicide* was not often excepted in their policies on lives as by all of ours in England.—The whole objection, however, was soon replied to and put down by a very fine young woman, who said, " that though it might be difficult to answer the objection, she knew, personally, it had been carried too far, having been at home herself two nights following, only three years before, but that by taking a few nervous draughts and going to three balls every night for a fortnight afterwards, she got well in less than a month." *This was quite decisive,* and as I now saw that

my

my opinion in favour of public places was beginning to gain ground, I desired Morvina to add for me, that we had them in the highest perfection in London, to the utter extinction of that itinerant mendicant dissipation, begging nightly at private houses for the smallest morsels of entertainment in every nook and corner of the town.

I was the friend, I said, of universal hospitality.—I wished to see in the spacious apartments of the great the most splendid festivals, and that even the most private houses should often resound with music, gaiety, and mirth.—I objected only to those cruel experiments on animal life in over-crowded parties, which, after all, could be out-done by the air-pumps of every chemist in the very same streets, but who, by the bye, would be disgraced by such practices even upon frogs or mice.

Here the discussion ended—

I was

I was the more surprized at this strange perversion of taste, and abandonment of all comfort, when I was afterwards introduced into their private societies, which were every where delightful.—I forbear to dwell upon them, lest I should seem to be casting into the shade even English accomplishments and beauty.—I shall content myself therefore with saying, that almost every woman I saw when drawn out from the confused masses where I had seen them before, or rather *not seen them*, appeared like the sun himself when emerged from clouds that had obscured him.—From the great care, even from infancy, of their hair, their teeth, their complexions, and their whole persons, beauty had almost ceased to be a distinction, and when I afterwards became acquainted with the language, I found them so amiable in their dispositions, and captivating in their manners, so delightful in conversation, so highly accomplished, so well instructed in all useful knowledge, and so domestic in the midst of allure-

ments all around them, that had my heart been disengaged, it must have been at a loss where to fix.—Most of them indeed when in youth, "*might have lain by an Emperor's side to com-*" "*mand him tasks.*"—And as to those who had passed that prime season, I found them also, upon acquaintance, to be just what the wisest of us in England would wish to see in the dearest of our kindred, or our friends—I met with very few who were debauched in their principles, or disqualified by habits of dissipation for the offices of domestic life; they knew all that women ought to know; they spoke of the scenes they mixed in very much as I have done myself, and preserved, in the midst of them, the same moral feelings, the same affection for their families, and the same attention to their duties, that the simplest times ever knew.

It often brought to my mind the words of Solomon, most usefully corrective of a very general disposition to find fault with the age in

which

which we live:—'Say not you that the former 'times were better than these, you have not 'considered wisely of this.'

Let me hope that this sincere and affectionate tribute to the women of Armata may induce them (when our worlds shall be open to each other hereafter) to forgive the ridicule I have cast, perhaps too freely, upon the prevailing fashions of the day.—My only object was to discountenance a system which destroys their health, cuts short the fleeting period of their beauty, conceals it from universal attraction, and alarms the prudent when admiration is ripening into love.

I was now introduced every where, and was confirmed in my opinion that their domestic society would have been perfect, if it could have been enjoyed undisturbed; but from feverish habits the most agreeable people were always running off to join the tumults of the night—It reminded me of our parties upon the

 Thames.

Thames, when after we are all comfortably seated and enjoying ourselves together, we are suddenly obliged to land again, whilst the boat is shooting London-bridge.—This only drawback to complete satisfaction would be at once removed by the substitution of public places, at reasonable intervals, for the endless and toilsome system I have described.

On making this remark to Morven, who was now again my companion, he said, he would carry me next day beyond the vortex which involved us; and after a drive through the park I have described and only half-a-mile beyond it, we arrived at a palace of singular architecture, the abode of distinguished men of old, but which had lost none of its lustre in its present possessor.—We passed through an antique gallery enriched with the learning of ages in a magnificent collection of books, and there was a calmness in the whole scene from the composing shadows cast all around us by the loftiest trees.—The noble host and hostess now received

us,

us, when the solemn character of the place on a sudden seemed to change and to smile upon us with the warm light of hospitality and kindness. —I was charmed, on further acquaintance, to see in the same man an assemblage of qualities very rarely united—universal knowledge with the simplicity of an infant's mind; the proudest public spirit with the gentlest complacency; and a vehement Fox-like public eloquence with the most uninterrupted playfulness and gaiety in private life.—The table, which was the same throughout the year, abounded with a rich and equal repast for mind and body, being the constant resort of the most eminent and accomplished persons. I was struck with the contrast of finding myself, upon the very margin of such an immense city, amidst dark groves and gay flowering shrubberies resounding with the wild notes of the thrush and blackbird, and the song of the nightingale amongst the rest, who though he followed the fashion in keeping late hours, very wisely spent them in the woods.

 I remained

I remained till it was near morning, and as the conversation became warm upon the interesting subject of Armatan freedom—I almost thought I heard the majestic commanding voice of Grey, enlightening our minds and compelling our conviction—the clear and nervous persuasion of Lansdowne—the dexterous pith and keen argumentative wit of Tierney—the comprehensive and splendid energy of Brougham—the pure and learned eloquence of Mackintosh—and all Scotland personified in the able, acute, powerful, unrelenting demand of Lauderdale upon our *well-earned* assent to what he said.—Nor can I thus call to mind a scene both as to time and place so distant, without reflecting upon *the Pleasures of Memory* and the delightful talents of the author.

When I afterwards visited the public places for conversation and dancing, all my objections to their mistaken notions of amusement were confirmed.—Some of them, by a well-regulated selection,

selection, embraced every advantage of private circles, and all the splendour of numerous assemblies; a system that if encouraged under the patronage of rank and opulence, which lead fashions in all countries, would soon extinguish the minor dissipations, and when improved by the erection of buildings in the highest perfection of architecture and sculpture, would become a great feature in the eyes of strangers visiting, like myself, this ancient and illustrious city.

In nations depending for their wealth and greatness upon arts and manufactures it is the grossest mistake to imagine that matters of this kind are indifferent—They are, on the contrary; of high importance.—Folly only declaims against the luxuries of the wealthy, because it is too short-sighted to see that they relieve the necessities of the poor. Nothing impoverishes a people but what is taken, *without measure*, by governments from the common stock; all other expenses, wise or

unwise in the individuals, soon return to it, and are sources of universal wealth. If London, which God avert! should decline in after-ages, and be visited like Rome in her declension, I would rather that the remains should be seen of an immense edifice where the sons and daughters of England had rejoiced in the meridian of her glory, than the ruins of a disgusting Coliseum for the savage combats of wild beasts.

I cannot, perhaps, find a better place for illustrating the striking effects of public assemblies in apartments erected for the purpose, where every art is exerted to give splendour to the scene, than in what I saw at an entertainment of the Chief Magistrate of that great city.

We entered a magnificent hall, but which, instead of being lighted up, was in such a state of darkness that we could scarcely discern one another.—I was on the point of inquiring the cause of this, when in a second, and without a hand being stretched forth, I found myself in

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the centre of a transcendant blaze of light, brighter than if all the whales in the South Seas and Greenland had been melted down into oil and set fire to at my feet.—I am almost afraid to express the similitude it suggested, and the sensation it produced; though it cannot surely be prophane to feel the power of the Creator in the inventive faculties of his creatures—it exalted my mind to contemplate the astonishing effect of the divine word upon the universe throughout its boundless extent, when God said—LET THERE BE LIGHT, AND THERE WAS LIGHT.

Whether this grand discovery can be brought into all the uses of man, is what I had neither skill nor leisure to examine.

I was next shewn how well they knew what concerts ought to be.—Music of every description seemed to have reached perfection, and its characters were as various, as the nations of its authors were different. In the softer climates

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it is soft and voluptuous, expressive, beyond description, of the passions, and the language of the people most happily accords with it. In other countries, where the inhabitants are more robust and intellectual, their music is correspondent, being animated and intensely vigorous, lifting the mind to Heaven when devotion is to be impressed, rousing it to battle when martial ardour is to be excited, and electrifying the whole frame of man by the endless measures of harmonious combination. Armata herself, though at the head of her world, was *here*, perhaps, not pre-eminent, but her wealth and her commanding station collected in her capital all vocal and instrumental talents, leaving other countries, comparatively, WITHOUT CHORD OR VOICE.

Being totally illiterate in music, though charmed by it even to rapture, I can say no more of it than that I sometimes imagined Handel himself to have been at the organ, with the Messiah spread out before him; and sometimes

times as if Mozart, and Haydn, and Paesiello having charmed the sentinels of another world, had come back again from the dead.

I could have wished their grand theatre had been less extensive, but as it was a mixed amusement of *spectacle*, conversation, and music, there was the advantage of meeting every body, without the probable disappointment of missing *the very people we might the most wish to see.*—Let this theatre therefore stand without rival or critic, or Lord Chamberlains, to disturb it; but let no apology be offered for the absurd magnitude of their playhouses, which I afterwards visited.

The first I went to was quite as large as our Covent Garden or Drury Lane, a very great defect.—I sat in that part of the house the most resembling our pit or front boxes, though the construction seemed to be different, and being placed as it were in the centre of vision, and

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looking above, below, and all around me, I was delighted to see such an immense number of well-dressed happy people, of various classes and conditions; but all of them obvious parts of a well-adjusted harmonious WHOLE. There was no tumult or disorder, which I was told *almost* never took place but when something was radically wrong. As the play advanced, I became more sensible that the golden mean of magnitude had been trangressed in the formation of the house, because, though my imperfect acquaintance with the language rendered it difficult to take a just measure of such a defect, yet I was convinced that the more distant parts of the audience were often disappointed, by their repeated calls for that degree of silence which in an extensive theatre it is impossible to command.—The scenes were beautifully painted, equal in effect to our finest panoramas, the dresses rich and appropriate, and the performers, as far as I could form a judgment of their talents, were highly accomplished in their art,

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but there was the same manifest imperfection as in our theatres, which are much too large for the enjoyment of exquisite acting.

It is not sufficient that we can see distinctly the persons of our actors, or hear their voices, however clearly, when raised to their ordinary pitch—we ought to be near enough to mark the effect of the passions, even in the most fugitive changes of expression, which cannot possibly be within the reach of the bulk of a London audience.—If this is once felt by the most accomplished actor, if he cannot but observe that he falls short in extending the delicate touches of his art throughout so wide a circle, he inevitably acquires the habit of marking them more strikingly than Nature dictates, which totally destroys their effect—But this imperfection, when vision only becomes indistinct from distance, is much more destructive of fine acting if the most *inward voice of the actor* falls short of reaching the ear.—Almost all the finest parts of tragedy or comedy must be finished in

tones so subdued, so transient, and so delicately expressive, that to extend the voice in them would annihilate the scene, and the very consciousness that its extension is necessary, disturbs and baulks the actor in the noblest exertions, and by sympathy, even in the most refined conceptions of his art. If this great error shall remain uncorrected, acting will not only be retrograde, but a taste so vicious will be created by it, that if in another age our Garrick, and Siddons, and Kemble, were to re-appear amongst us, their talents might be eclipsed by the mere *speaking trumpets* of the stage.

Another cause has long perhaps obstructed a more continued succession of superior actors, but, which, from the improved manners and genius of many of them, both dead and living, has been for some time insensibly wearing away—I mean the estimation in which the stage has been regarded. To secure for it a perpetual and still increasing lustre, the road should be open, as in other professions, to the most liberal consi-

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deration, though not to the highest distinctions—nothing else can invite its professors to learned and polished educations; without which, in the superior branches of acting, there can be no brilliant succession.—We might have *self-taught genius* even from the desert, but the ordinary soil of nature must be *highly dressed* to be eminently productive, and its culture must be encouraged by the prices of the harvest. This truth is constantly exemplified in the London theatres—we have many clowns and buffoons, and lower characters, most admirably represented, because, without at all undervaluing the talents such imitations call for, the most uneducated may excel in them, nay perhaps even excel the most; but, to fill the higher parts of tragedy, where the great, the wise, and the accomplished, have often to speak in the stately measure of sublime poetry, or, as in genteel comedy, in the language of the high and fashionable world, classical taste and high breeding are indispensable, and which no genius can imitate, because manners must be insensibly *worked* into the

habit

habit by the same means that many have acquired them who have acquired nothing else; and because, although they are nothing when compared with more exalted qualifications, yet people of all descriptions must be conciliated in the language they have been accustomed to hear, and their feelings prepossessed by the same kind of address which wins them in ordinary life.

To bring the stage, therefore, in England, and indeed every where else, to its proper bearings, its professors must be cherished and respected.

Transcendant plays, though avowedly written for public exhibition, and which if confined to the closet would lose their highest lustre, are justly ranked amongst the noblest exertions of human genius; their authors when living have been objects of universal admiration, and their fame has become immortal;—why then should not actors, without whose aids they are compa-

ratively nothing, be trained up in corresponding acquirements, and rewarded by similar applause?

As I had complained so much of neither seeing nor hearing as I wished, Morven, who was now again my companion, carried me the next day to an apartment near the stage where all these defects were removed.—I was presented to the proprietor, who said there were all kind of refreshments at my command; he was an old man of the most interesting aspect, and there was something in his manners far beyond fashion in the benignity of his whole deportment.—When the play was over, he said he would carry me to some favourite music at another theatre, where I found, to my surprize, the same accommodation; servants in waiting, and carriages to attend us to our houses, or wherever we chose to go: I accepted one of them, and, as we passed to a distant quarter, Morven said to me, "That extraordinary person, whose acquaintance you have just made, is one of the richest men in Armata, but differing from many others in

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the whole character of his mind and temper.—How often do we see the most opulent, either improvidently wasting their fortunes, or sacrificing every satisfaction to increase them! and even in the absence of such insane propensities, how frequently do we find them entangled throughout their whole lives by senseless fashions and opinions, unconnected with either happiness or virtue, and dropping at last into their graves, weighed down by accumulated wealth, without having either enjoyed it themselves or administered it to the support of others!—Of all this he is the very reverse; though most intelligent in every branch of business, and most carefully precise in all its multiplied concerns, he is so entirely removed from all thought of them when with his family and his friends, that you could not possibly discover he had ever spent an hour in such pursuits, and his vast fortune rolls on more rapidly, whilst he is spreading it abroad with a liberal hand for all the uses which make its possession a blessing and a trust." It brought to my mind the true but singular saying of

Solomon—

Solomon—'There is that scattereth' yet in-
'creaseth; and there is that withholdeth more
'than enough, yet it tendeth to poverty.'

I thought I had now exhausted all the social satisfactions of this great city, when a new world suddenly burst upon me through my introduction to many philosophical and literary institutions, of some of which I was even admitted a member.—In science, they said, there were no aliens; and it was happily remarked in one of them, by a stranger from a distant country, that as many charitable foundations of the capital, rejecting local qualifications, extended their benevolence to all who were in distress, so her philosophical bodies would be always ready to embrace the whole intellectual world. Nothing indeed ever interested me so highly as to see, *every where throughout Armata,* the vigorous and capacious mind of man, casting off all the fetters and entanglements which impede it in the search after truth, vindicating

the belief that we are formed after the image of God.

By her astronomers, I was brought to a nearer and astonishing view of the remotest planets, and her naturalists amused me with the curiosities of their own; tracing not only the families of all animals, but of plants, down to the grasses we tread upon, in the sexual intercourses of their tribes: whilst others again, with a skill which seemed more like magic than ordinary science, were exploring the hitherto latent characteristics of inanimate matter, till all the strata of their globe were laid out before me, and their structures as clearly explained as if they had been the work of human hands.

To examine the wonders which chemistry and mechanics had accomplished amongst them would almost demand the skill that gave them birth.—They had discovered a power I am quite unable to describe, which, though when left at

large insensibly mixes itself with the air, and scarcely lifts a feather in its ascent, would, when imprisoned, unhinge a world for its freedom.— Over this subtle and almost omnipotent agent they had gained a complete dominion, and, by a limited and wisely adjusted compression, to give it a safe direction, had obtained a momentum for their most ponderous engines, which neither wind nor water, nor any combinations of matter could have produced.

May not politicians take a lesson from this? May they not learn from it that there is a restraint of liberty, which cannot safely be imposed; and that man must finally be free to the extent at least which Heaven has appointed for his happiness?—Like the constructors of those powerful engines, they may give health and vigour to their governments by the honest and judicious restraints of a liberal system of laws, but, if they transgress that just and necessary dominion, human nature, like the natural ele-

 ments

ments I have spoken of, will open a passage for itself till the invaded equilibrium is restored.

In all the other branches of knowledge I found this highly favoured island as eminently exalted; and, on looking into the best accounts of other countries, which were as nothing in the scale, I should have wondered at the phenomenon of her wisdom and greatness, were it not clear, that when Providence appoints a nation for extraordinary duties, she must be furnished with the means to fulfil them.—The lower world is left to the guidance of various instincts, which are sufficient for the parts to be sustained, and animals, from age to age, are therefore every where the same; but MAN has a nobler office, and is gifted according to the work which is in hand.—This was my clue to the biography of Armata—and I thought I saw, in a long and shadowy train before me, the martyrs to her pure religion—her patriots expiring on the scaffold and in the field for her laws and

liberties—her wise men deliberating in councils and courts of justice—her historians recording her virtues for universal example—her poets enshrining them in immortal numbers—and a host of heroes defending her against an envious world. Establishments of charity were numerous, but though admirable alike in their objects and administrations, I pass them by altogether as not within the scope of my remarks.—When the twin-worlds shall become as open hereafter as the continents of our own are to each other, every hospital in Armata will be as well known in London as St. Luke's or Bridewell, and I should be sorry to see the little pocket-books of the year made up by a piracy of my work:—I have selected therefore for my objects matters that are beyond their reach.



CHAPTER VI.

The Author's Remarks upon the Laws and Religion of Armata, and upon the Police of the Capital.

I NOW became anxious to be acquainted with the *general character* of the Armatan laws, which had acquired amongst strangers from all nations an unexampled reputation; and I had not long been engaged in this interesting inquiry, before I could see distinctly the cause of her progressive prosperity through so many ages, whilst other governments had been swept away in the storms of revolution. I deeply lament that my acquaintance with the language, though now amply sufficient for the common purposes of a traveller, was still too imperfect for the investigation of so difficult a subject; and that neither my education, nor the habits of my life in my own country, enabled me duly to comprehend the information I received from the most accomplished lawyers to whom I had the advantage of being introduced. I shall therefore be very short—all details indeed, had I been

competent to embrace them, would have been beside my purpose.

The legal constitution of Armata is of a most singular character; its principal maxims, and even its minutest forms, having come down from a high antiquity, and acquired from thence a claim to reverence and attachment which the wisest institutions very seldom obtain, when men have *seen* their beginnings and have known their authors however wise.—The more ancient of her laws are unequalled for their clearness and precision, an excellence which may have arisen from their having been in a manner conquered by her people from their oppressors, which made it necessary to secure indelibly the land-marks of popular independence; and the same state of society produced other characteristics of her jurisprudence, which remain to this hour, and promise to be immortal.

The necessity of the utmost clearness in the records of customs and in the language of statutes, inculcated a corresponding strictness

in the judicial administration, so as, in *some instances*, even to produce injustice; an imperfection, however, not complained of by those who were capable of weighing the advantages by which such rare evils are counterbalanced. But no precision in the records of customs nor in the enactments of statutes, though maintained in judicial administration by a corresponding strictness, could have secured the liberties of Armata, without the GRAND PECULIARITY THAT HER LAWS ARE ADMINISTERED BY HER PEOPLE.—The rigid adherence to this popular jurisdiction, together with its correct limitation, are most striking instances of wisdom; as it was to be feared that when this *only security* had been adopted against the abuses of fixed magistracy it might have been carried too far, and that neither property nor liberty could have been supported, when there was no fixed depositary of the rules which maintained them.

It requires the precision of a lawyer to handle this subject, and I am almost afraid to touch it, though the principle seems to be simple.

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The rules which govern property of every description through all its transmissions, and which prescribe the forms of legal remedies when it is invaded, cannot be left to the unsettled judgments of the most enlightened people, without bringing the utmost uncertainty upon all inheritances and titles.—*These* must always be the subjects of written codes, or recorded decisions, which learning alone can treasure up and apply.—The rights of individuals also, and their vindications when violated, must upon the same principles *be positively defined;* else no man could know what were his privileges, or in what manner to assert them. The people of Armata, from the very earliest times, were as well aware of this indispensable division between fact and law, as geographers are of the line by which they divide the hemispheres of our globe, and although invested, in many cases, with the power of deciding upon both, they uniformly respected the rules which referred the law to judicial determination, and the Judges possess all the authorities for protecting their legal jurisdictions.

Crimes,

Crimes, in the same manner, must be defined by positive laws, or known through ancient customs which, by the force of decisions, have become equally positive; as otherwise no man could know what course he might justly pursue, or deliver himself from any snares which might be spread in his path. In this most important branch of jurisprudence, the good sense of the Armatan nation may be said to be summed up.

To the definition of crimes, whether created by a written code or evidenced by the records of antiquity, they adhered with the most scrupulous strictness; they suffered no ambiguities to prevail, and when their own security was more emphatically at stake, in the enactments of treasons against the state, there was even a curiosity in their precision; stung with the utmost jealousy of fixed magistrates, though it was impossible with wisdom to abrogate or abridge their authorities, they repeatedly recast those tremendous statutes, reprobating their extension by constructive judgments, and always bringing them back, *with the recorded*

disgrace

disgrace of their invaders, to the very words which had been misunderstood or overborne.

But though the definitions of crimes are as much the province of judicial learning as the rules which govern property, and all civil rights, yet the Armatans were always alive to the clear and vital distinction between civil and criminal justice.—What is a crime is a question of LAW; but *whether committed or not* must always be a question of *fact*, which they would never trust to any decision but *their own*, nor permit any plea or answer to be addressed either in form or substance but to *themselves*.—They were, from the most ancient times, therefore, an integral part of the courts; more independent indeed than the highest judges, whose decisions might be reviewed by superior tribunals, *but no tribunal could ever touch an acquitting sentence by the equals of the accused.*

This had been the life's-blood of public freedom through all ages, yet a few years had only passed since

since it was running out like water in Armata, and she was dying without attending to her complaint.---Her Judges, following one another, had, it seems, settled, as they called it, by a series of decisions, that *writings* forming an anomaly in criminal proceedings, were to be left to *their* censureship, and that it was for *them alone to decide*, even when no rights of individuals were affected, in what language the opinions of mankind *upon every possible subject* was to be expressed; assuming to themselves the sole judgment of *intention* whilst they shut themselves up from all testimony by which alone it could, in many cases, be ascertained.—This blind and presumptuous pretension was not only a palpable violation of the ancient law through which every popular jurisdiction might in turn have been argued away, but gave to the fixed magistrates, appointed by the crown, the power of controuling the press, which is but another name for AN ABSOLUTE DOMINION OVER THE PEOPLE.

The conflicts to resist this usurpation were obstinate

obstinate and protracted, but *common sense* prevailed in the end, and sophistical *nonsense* was overthrown.

I wondered much when I heard this strange history, but I have wondered *much less* since I came home; because I never can admit that Armata has more public spirit or wisdom than England, yet what at this moment is our own condition, though we are in complete, unquestioned possession of the privilege just spoken of, and which for a season only she had lost?—The subject is so clear that I enter upon it without apprehension; though I declare, *upon my honour*, that I should have known nothing of the law, nor ever even thought of it, if I had not left my own country and visited the nation I have been describing.

The Libel Act of Mr. Fox withdrew a long-exercised jurisdiction over the qualities of writings upon general subjects, even from our most exalted judges, not because their justice and independence were then particularly suspected, but

because

been the opinion of Parliament, when by the Statute of the 48th of the King, they gave to the justices of the King's Bench *and to them only*, a power to issue warrants after information filed in that court, and such must be the opinion of every man living, lawyer or no lawyer, who has read the speech of Earl Grey in the House of Lords, which, *even as it is published*, may range with the most invincible arguments ever delivered from the bench or at the bar, and his opponents may well say with Æschines in doing justice to Demosthenes—*What would you have said if you had* HEARD *him!*

This power, nevertheless, still remains in England, and probably will for some time continue: but common sense, and the spirit of English freedom, will, in the end, be triumphant.

I ought not, however, to conclude this abstract consideration of fixed magistracy without a just homage to the judges of Armata.—I found, from all inquiries, that they were remarkable, like our own, for their integrity and learning;

learning; that the administration of the law was held in the highest reverence, and that no instance had occurred in modern times of any corrupt departure from their duties.—Their independence had exalted the sacred character of their office, and had secured the confidence of the public.—I was presented to the whole bench, and found them as familiarly pleasant in private life as they were dignified in their tribunals of justice.

I make no apology for this long digression—I could not possibly alter the world I was cast on, nor depart with truth from what I saw in it; but wherever the occasion offered, I have applied it throughout, to the illustration of my own country, or for the reformation of what appeared to be errors and defects.—*This* (as the Preface has spoken for me) has been the only object of my work, and where I may be mistaken my *motive* should protect me.

I have the rather enlarged upon this mo-

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mentous subject because it is so dangerously misunderstood.—They who hold high the popular institutions of the country are supposed of late to be adverse to the monarchy, whereas they are its *only* supporters:—*a revolution*, and of a very different character from the last, might be the probable consequence of any attempt to bear down THE TRIAL BY JURY OR THE LIBERTY OF THE PRESS; and whilst they remain undisturbed, and in full action, the multitude so unjustly suspected will not only be obedient, but government itself may be often saved from the fatal consequences of ignorant misrule. What spectacle indeed can be more sublime than to see a blind system of jealous and arbitrary dominion carried on through the profligate and corrupting agency of spies in every part of the kingdom; receive as it were a DEATH-BLOW from twelve honest men, indifferently chosen out of the undistinguished mass of our people!

Another striking feature in the criminal law of

of Armata is, that the power of accusation, in the highest offences, is vested also in a popular tribunal, which, in ancient practice, extended to inferior offences; but summary jurisdictions had for a long time been undermining this great security against oppression.—The creation of an immense revenue, and the powers necessary for its collection, had introduced a new system, which, extending by analogy and custom to many collateral cases, had greatly altered the condition of the Armatan people.—Their *exclusive* dominion over the greatest offences remained inviolate, but they were subject *in too many instances* to the jurisdiction of the lower magistrates, without appeal *for the facts to their equals, or to their superior judges for the law.*

This is an evil which in its beginning ought to have been zealously opposed.—When new conditions of society arise in any country, the objects of justice cannot but multiply, and many changes in ancient systems must necessarily follow; but the utmost caution should be

used to depart as little as possible from the principles which gave them birth, because they are the sources of obedience and contentment.— I thought I saw throughout Armata strong symptoms that this salutary precaution had been overlooked.

Nothing indeed is more painful than to observe the inevitable difficulties and dangers attendant on the most perfect institutions, when cases accumulate, which demand new rules, and when the decisions upon the old ones are rapidly increasing—the science of jurisprudence then becomes abstrusely complicated, and the law, instead of being any longer a plain and simple rule of action for the *people*, becomes too difficult even for the *judges* to comprehend.—Expense, delay, and uncertainty, cannot but follow in proportion, till the courts, which should be looked up to as *sanctuaries*, are beheld only with a salutary *fear*.

I cannot perhaps better describe the extent

to which their decisions and statutes had multiplied, than by relating an anecdote which, though it diverted me as a stranger, ought to be matter of painful consideration in Armata both for government and people.

Being much delighted, as I could not but be, with an outline of the law, so beautifully simple, I expressed to my learned conductor the strongest desire to see the BOOK in which their decisions and statutes were compiled and registered for public instruction and the administration of justice.—He smiled *very significantly*, saying he would carry me to where my curiosity should be indulged, and, in a few minutes afterwards, we arrived at a house, from whence I expected to carry home, under my arm, *the volume* I had been promised :—it was one of the great libraries of the country, being the property of a nobleman, in whose family books had been accumulating for centuries, and who preserved them in the utmost regularity and order.

We were shewn into a spacious apartment, handsomely fitted up and provided with ladders, such as are common in England, for reaching their highest orders.—I was greatly struck with the immense number of volumes, in the view of which, however, my learned conductor interrupted me, by saying, that, as our time was limited, we must not waste it in one part of the library, as it was divided into different chambers, in which the books were classed according to their subjects.—I was surprized at this, and told him, that though England was more famous for literature of every character and description than any nation of our world, yet I had conceived the hall we were leaving contained the whole collection. "The whole collection!" he re-echoed with the utmost seeming amazement—"why, my dear stranger, they are only his LAW-BOOKS." "What do you mean?" I answered, with equal surprize on my part, as the reader may well believe—"WHAT LAW-BOOKS? Have you communications then with the planets and fixed stars, and made a digest of all their

institutions?"

institutions?" "Oh, no," he said, "they are only books of very *local* jurisdiction—*they are our own laws only.*—Those on your right hand," pointing as far as we could see, "are our *decisions*—and those on your left are our *statutes.*" I stood silent for a while, and then broke out with an astonishment I could not conceal—"If this be really so, how are your people to know by what rules they are to govern themselves, what duties they are to perform, or how to avoid the penalties annexed to disobedience?" "Nothing so easy," replied my learned conductor; "Nothing in either of our worlds so perfectly plain and simple," laying his hand, at the same time, on what seemed to correspond with some of the indexes in our own books—"what shall I find for you?—I will turn to it in a second."—"Turn then," I said, "to your law for preventing infection from the plague."—For I had been told they had regulations for quarantine. "Here it is," said the Armatan counsellor, as he read *the title*; but he had not proceeded ten lines in the enacting part when

when we found it principally related to the smuggling of chew-chum, a leaf resembling our tobacco. "Oh," said he, on my laughing at the discordancy, "this is a mere mistake, depend upon it, some misprinting—let me turn to another." "Well then," I said, "find me the law which regulates your marriages;" which he turned up accordingly in a moment, and read its title with an air of triumph; but he had not read far, when we found it mostly related to *horned cattle*—he was now rather disconcerted, when I laughed, and said to him, "Oh, this can only be a misprinting—try something else—let me see the act which regulates the functions of your bishops and clergy." "That I can do," he replied; "it is now," he said, "before you," as he read the *title;* but there was little in the *body* of it, except as to passing women with child of bastards to their proper parishes, as we at least should call them. It was now my turn to triumph, and I could not help exclaiming, "You have found it, at last, have you?—your women I hope don't

swear

swear their bastards to your bishops and clergy? I will now positively give you but one chance more, and you must find me at once something consistent, or I will go back again to England and send over Lord Stanhope to thump you"— Alas! I little thought how soon he was to be lost to ourselves!

He now turned, by my desire, and as his last effort, to an act against bribery and corruption, the *title* of which he was not long in finding, but so little was the concordance of the *enactment* that, on the contrary, it only continued and secured the constitutions of their *rotten boroughs.*

As he went on, referring to the decisions of their courts, he was frequently in the same manner most sorely puzzled—Sometimes he found a case *settled,* and told me it was *undoubted law;* but on looking farther, he often informed me that it had been afterwards settled *the other* way, and in a subsequent volume, which he

turned

turned to, he frequently discovered that the *last* decision was clogged with *exceptions* which supported *neither*, but that, by still looking onward, he could shew me how it was settled at last;—he accordingly found some of his cases, but they had many times stood over for another argument, *and had never been decided.*

In this way he went on, until he was driven in the end to admit, that if a young man were to begin to read all the books of their laws, written and unwritten, public and private, on his first entering their courts, he would be superannuated before he got through them.

I confess I retired from this scene severely mortified, because no words can convey an idea of the extreme wisdom of their whole constitution; and I cannot here help imploring the parliament of my own country to guard against this worst of evils, before it reaches, as in Armata, to such a dreadful extent, that TIME ALONE, without either errors or abuses, must

destroy

destroy all the simplicity of our venerable constitution.

I am aware it must be a MASTER'S HAND that touches such a string.—It would be most difficult to make a dictionary of final decisions, abrogating all those upon which they were founded; because it would cast into the shade the history and progress of the law which preserves and consecrates its character; yet I still think that means might be found, by the aid of Parliament, to simplify its practice, leaving the ancient books as the fountains of more modern judgments, which, like statutes, might give the rule until repealed.

In carrying such a system into effect, the *language* of decisions ought of course, *not even in a letter*, to be touched, as it would be the parent of new litigations; but *the decisions themselves* might be sanctioned, so as to prevent all resort to others more ancient, shut out by

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the adoption of those that might be selected as law.

I am not prepared to say that such a plan is *safely practicable*, but the proper question for the legislature ought to be, *Is it absolutely impracticable and impossible?* because, when such *increasing and ruinous mischiefs* are in the other scale, every effort ought to be made to suppress them.

My own opinion is, *that though mighty difficulties are in the way*, the attempt, *in some mode or other*, under the sanction of the judges, ought to be made; and my confidence in the result is founded upon the immense care and learning which distinguish the modern decisions of our courts; and 'because almost all the subjects which the laws have to deal with, not only come round again in a very few years, but in a country which has reached its summit would be less likely to fluctuate, than when it was progressive,

gressive, as in former times.—Why then might not the best materials in our later reports, though not established as conclusive, be held by the profession to be the order of the day, and all other arguments be excluded or abridged? —I am informed indeed by eminent lawyers, that *absolute necessity* is working this effect, but some *authorised system* is still wanting to give it continuity and force.

I need hardly conclude by saying that the judgments to be thus selected, must be such *as are beyond all question*, and which could not be reversed or shaken without bringing confusion upon the law.

For the reasons I have already adverted to, it would be most difficult and dangerous to recast our statute law, or even to simplify and condense it by enactments, because no care in their language could prevent disputes upon their constructions, whilst those that were abrogated had finally received them in the courts.—Perhaps,

therefore, the utmost that can be safely accomplished, is most carefully to class and digest our written laws, but without alterations, and to discourage as much as possible that *rage for legislation* which an eminent advocate, now dead, used to consider as an increasing disease, saying—"*that no man in his time could sleep in his bed without tinkering at some act of parliament.*"*—Yet here again the same question ought to be put to the legislature, and be patiently and anxiously considered—Is it *certainly impracticable* to go farther with *safety*, in our escape from the gulph that is hourly widening to swallow us up?

On examining the civil branch of Armatan jurisprudence, I was equally impressed with the

* From all accounts of this excellent and interesting person, I deeply lament that I did not know him.—He was universally beloved in the profession of the law, and I cannot give a stronger instance of it than that I have seen a bag which he gave many years ago to a young barrister, for whom he had a great friendship, who literally wore it to rags in the courts, and whom I once heard say, that he would not sell even the tattered remnant of it for five hundred pounds.

strong intellectual powers of this highly gifted race of men, and in nothing more than in the dexterous mode of liberalising their decisions, by the equitable aids of a *distinct court*, a thing utterly unknown in any other country of their world.

I have already observed, that the jurisdictions and forms of their tribunals were derived from the most ancient customs; that their whole law was remarkable for its precision; and that the liberty and property of the nation were deeply involved in the preservation of that stubborn strictness.—It is obvious that such a code could not be safely engrafted on.—It might have been hazardous in the extreme to obliterate the very characteristic of so admirable a system, by making it necessary for judges to supply, by constructive judgments, any defects which appeared in the application of very ancient rules to the complicated concerns of a great empire, extending, or rather originating an enriching commerce, which gives an infinite variety to the

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transactions of mankind.—The necessity of such constructions, by unsettling the principles and practice of the law, might not only have affected the security of property, but what would have been far worse, might have sapped the very foundations of public freedom, by extending their influence to the administration of criminal justice.

When equitable considerations, therefore, became indispensable, even beyond the natural equity comprehended in the most positive laws, it was fit that they should be confided to a separate tribunal; and this new system, like the old one, to which it came in aid, was not enacted by any statutes, but grew up in the very teeth of them, and for a season even of the legislature itself; forcing, or rather stealing its way, until it settled at last in the very station where it was wise it should remain; becoming an useful auxiliary, equally precise and certain as that whose precision it preserved.—There is an analogy, perhaps, between the elements of the

natural

natural and civil world—There is a point where the *first* are absolutely at rest, and the *second* as nearly so as the condition of human affairs will admit.

I was most curious to arrive at some understanding of the principles which governed this extraordinary court; but I might have long remained without a clue to it, but for a small book, not much larger than a Court Kalendar, the work, as I was told, of a most learned man, which gave me all the heads of it in a manner so brief and yet so luminous, that I shall translate them into English, that the people of England may feel the duty of perpetually watching over all their inestimable institutions, to prevent their becoming useless, and even mischievous, by a departure from their original designs.

The jurisdiction of this high court, according to the great authority above alluded to, became necessary :—

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1st, When the principles of the law by which the ordinary courts were guided gave a right, but where their powers *(for the reasons I have adverted to)* were not sufficient to afford a complete remedy.

2dly, Where the courts of ordinary jurisdiction were made instruments of injustice.

3dly, Where they gave *no right*, but where, upon the principles of universal justice, the interference of the judicial power became necessary to prevent a wrong, when positive law was silent.

4thly, To remove impediments to the fair decision of a question in other courts.

5thly, To provide for the safety of property in dispute, pending a litigation in the ordinary courts.

6thly, To prevent the assertion of doubtful rights in a manner which might be productive of irreparable injury.

7thly, To prevent injury to a third person by the doubtful title of others.

8thly, To put a bound to vexatious and oppressive litigation.

9thly, To compel a discovery, which was beyond the customary powers of other courts.

10thly, To preserve testimony.

These short and simple outlines were afterwards, even in this small volume, so clearly, yet so amply filled up, that I was told by the most eminent lawyers that none of the *proper* objects of this court's jurisdiction were omitted, and that a man of sound understanding, who had acquired a legal apprehension by ordinary study

and practice, could hardly miss his way in their application.

I cannot perhaps better illustrate those separate jurisdictions, than by selecting an instance of one of the highest of them, to vindicate the principle which seemed almost to govern them all.—Having carefully read the little book, and having found that there existed a power in this high forum to prevent a man from proceeding in a court of law, if it could be shewn that he contemplated injustice, and even to make him abandon the fruit of the most unimpeachable judgment, if obtained through fraud, I asked how such an interference could be necessary; as in both cases the lower courts themselves might do equal justice—in the *first*, by repelling the fraud contemplated, by its own decisions; and in the *second*, by reversing its own judgment, if its justice had been surprized; and that, in both instances, the same evidence which would warrant the interference of an equitable tribunal, ought equally to defeat the action in a court of

law;

law; but the answer I received convinced me I was mistaken, as such a course would be destructive of all the certainty I had so much admired: The frauds might be of a character which the courts, in other times, had not embraced in their recorded proceedings, and the judges must either have made new laws by their judgments, instead of administering the old ones, or have abandoned the principles of justice; and the cases might not be such as to have admitted, *even in future*, of practicable corrections by statutes.—In the same manner, the reversal of decisions, by the very tribunals which had pronounced them, must have led to endless dissatisfactions and appeals. In pursuing this enlightened jurisdiction through all its parts, as far as an unlettered stranger could comprehend it, I found it to be justified throughout.—I was filled with admiration of the wisdom which had reared it up, and was convinced that, but for an accident which I hasten to relate, the civil jurisdictions of Armata would have been as perfect as her criminal law.

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The ancient rules which governed the tenures of lands, and the forms of asserting inheritances, were most curiously precise, and all conveyances of property were equally remarkable for their brevity and clearness; evidenced besides by the public delivery of possession which always attended them; but the singular and fatal occurrence, which I have just promised an account of, wrought a total and sudden change in this simple and venerable system.—The clergy, who, in the infancy of letters, were by far the most learned amongst the people, had been long availing themselves of the superstitions of darker times, to draw to themselves the possession of the richest domains in various parts of the country, and, to give secrecy to such transactions, (as they were all prohibited,) public conveyances were not taken from the dupes of their hypocrisy, who only bound themselves to permit the use and enjoyment to belong to those religious bodies; but the heads of them contrived to seat themselves in this high court, where they compelled the execution by their own decrees,

though

though they were not only void of all legal solemnity, but were in contempt of positive law.

This dangerous system of fraud was carried at last to such a height, that the great council of Armata resolved to put an end to it; and the manner they set about its destruction was just what might have been expected from the *sagacity and shrewdness* so visible in all their institutions.—They said by a statute, *in a few plain words*, that whoever had the *use* of land should be taken to be the legal proprietor, and having before prohibited the clergy from receiving conveyances, no other path was open to them: *without the use* they had *nothing;* and the use now becoming the land itself, they could no longer hold it—*thus the foxes' holes were completely earthed up.* Now comes the extraordinary matter—which, as I could hardly myself believe when I heard it, I am almost afraid to be a suitor for belief from others; I can only promise to relate what I was told, though I cannot be confident I understood it.—

When

When the above-mentioned foxes came to their holes, and found the trick that had been played upon them, they fell upon this notable contrivance.—If pious A. possessed of land, had *now* given to clerical B. the use of it; such *use* could no longer have been available, because the *use* having, by the *new law*, become the *land itself*, clerical B. could not hold it; to avoid this awkward consequence, they settled that the clerical fox, who was to enjoy the land, should go down one step in the alphabet and become C. and that pious A. should find some nominal B., or any son of a B., to give the use to, which of course made this B., or this son of a B., *the legal proprietor*, but who, it was settled in this court, was only to hold it to the use of the same fox, *now clerical C.*

When this most manifest and impudent shuffle was brought before the judges of Armata, it was of course expected that an instant end would have been put to it; because the very object of the new law being that whoever had

the use and enjoyment of land, should be held to be *the legal owner*, it must be evident not merely to a lawyer, but to any shoe-black in an English alley, that if instead of sending down clerical B. to be clerical C. he had run the gauntlet through twenty alphabets, the use still pursuing him and becoming always the land itself, he could not possibly hold it. But the Judges of Armata, though profoundly learned in their general administration, unluckily thought otherwise, and pronounced that clerical C. had a good title, inasmuch as they could not go beyond B. who had the first use, nor carry on farther the end and object of the statute, by adjudging that the second use was still the land itself as much as if it had been the first. I can no otherwise account for this astonishing judgment except by what we frequently observe in one of the wisest and bravest of animals, who will in general advance against a cannon, yet who, in one of our lanes such as in Kensington or Knightsbridge, with nothing but shrubs and flowers all around him, will suddenly stand stock still,

still, startled at something or other, but without either himself or his rider knowing what the devil it can be.—In such conjunctures there is no remedy but the spur, which is, however, by no means a sure one, as riders have been thrown. —Now this is no simile, but the very case itself: Not a peg would the judges move, and the great council being some how afraid to spur them, their judgment was neither reversed in the supreme tribunal, nor a new law passed to follow on the use through all its windings, so as still to make it the land itself. The consequence requires no lawyer's skill to point out.— The evil intended to be beat down continued, and the jurisdiction of the courts of law over the landed territory of Armata was at an end for ever. From that period, almost all the estates throughout that great country were conveyed to second uses upon the ingenious model of clerical C. which even after the clergy had no longer any interest in the contrivances, remained the almost universal mode of settling property—the legal proprietor in the land

being

being nothing more than a chair in a country dance, the interest vesting in another, *subject only to the jurisdiction of the court I have described.*

The effects of this *unexampled revolution* were most disastrous.—Instead of the short and simple deeds of ancient times, with the clear and cheap evidence of public possession, a new system of conveyancing arose, which has ever since involved titles to land in the most expensive and perplexing intricacies, no man in Armata not a lawyer having the least guess at the tenure of his estate, and even a large class of lawyers themselves existing upon their controversies with each other, which, with the most honest disposition to finish them, become darker the more they are brought to light—the venerable judges of the law having no more jurisdiction over them than the keeper of the wild beasts at the Tower has a right, ex officio, to sit in parliament, or as a privy counsellor to the King.

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On conversing with the most learned men, I found that this strange emancipation of real property from the dominion of the ancient courts to this more modern tribunal, was not merely a change of one jurisdiction for another of the same character, but as entire an alteration of the whole system of the law as could possibly exist in countries the most remotely separated, depriving the subject of the most valuable part of the legal constitution; the forms of this court excluding oral testimony, and requiring that not only the pleadings and answers of the parties, but all the facts, however numerous the witnesses or however voluminous their testimony, should be reduced into writing, at an expense quite ruinous, and creating a delay destructive of the ends of justice.

I found moreover, that this dominion over land and over personal contracts so connected with it as to be quite inseparable, was in itself more than sufficient to occupy the whole time of any single judge, or even of twelve if they sat sepa-

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rately, and that its equitable aid to the other courts, which was its *real and admirable* province in the legal constitution, was completely overshadowed and almost swallowed up by this ill-omened jurisdiction.—Unskilled indeed as I was in such subjects, I could see most plainly that if the powers of this high court, as they are marked out in the masterly sketch before the reader, could have been made its *sole jurisdiction, constantly applied to assist the other courts, as must have been originally intended;* and if, as far as facts were concerned, the practice could have been assimilated to that of their other courts, by the admission of parole evidence, the justice of Armata would have been PERFECT.

But this unprincipled jurisdiction over landed property, wholly unconnected with its equitable office, was not the only obstruction which I found that the most indefatigable judge of this high court had to contend with.—Many other jurisdictions, never dreamed of in former times but which had arisen out of new conditions of

society, were heaped without measure or mercy upon his devoted head.—Whenever, indeed, any new subject of judicature started up, no matter from whence it came or to what it properly belonged, and for which the legislature was at fault for a forum, it was sure to be cast upon the heap—Like Milton's Limbo of Vanity, every thing that went wrong in the world was sure to be found here; and to swell the confusion, lunatics, mendicants, and bankrupts, even all the children of the kingdom were perpetually dancing around him—and as if all this was not sufficient occupation, it was found out besides that he ought to be placed as a legislative president in the highest council, where after having had his mind and body worn down by his judicial functions, he was compelled to sit and listen to all that the most unexhausted had to say.—I had a curiosity to see this great magistrate, and thought it no small one to see that he was *alive*.—He was a most able and agreeable man; by all accounts deeply learned in every branch of the law,

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tremblingly alive to the justice of decision, and most unwearied in the discharge of his multiplied and momentous trusts.—I asked him how he could possibly exist in such a scene as I have described: he laughed and said to me, "You may go and ask the first salamander you meet, how he lives in the *fire?* I have been *here all my life.*"

I found that this great Court had another Judge who sat separately, a person of great learning and eloquence, and that on account of the evils I have been describing, they had lately recourse to another; but, for my own part, I could see enough to be quite sure that if as many more were added to them as there are Martello towers upon our coast of Sussex, it would be just such a reform in judicature, as the others were in war.—The delays are inseparable from that *Babel* of jurisdictions I have described, and from a system of conveyancing, commencing, as the reader must have seen, in fraud and rapacity, but which, being afterwards sanctioned

by general practice, became almost the common assurance of that realm, and from its very nature the parent of expenses to an intolerable extent—all persons who can in any way be affected in their property or interests must invariably be made parties to any proceedings in this court, because its decrees are universally conclusive, and of course if any of them die, the suit may be said to die along with them; so that in cases of great value, where there are often many complainants, and great numbers impleaded, the cause is perhaps laid out a corpse once a month, until after a decent time for interment, at which the Commissioners of Stamps, like our undertakers, are sure to be constant attendants—the heirs or other representatives succeed to the defunct upon the record—and if their sheep were not as prolific and as short-lived as our own, it would be impossible to find a succession of parchment for their records. It is no wonder, therefore, that complaints are often loudly heard, and many have reason to complain, but *never of the Judges,* and very seldom of the

professors

professors of the law:—As well indeed might a traveller in our York waggon complain of the driver for not overtaking the mail;—but it appeared, from all my inquiries, that it was much too easy, *without proper securities*, to institute complaints in this court—The Romans punished their criminals by throwing them over the Tarpeian rock, but the punishment was in the hands of the *magistrates*, whereas *any man* in Armata may throw his neighbour over this tower of Babel, which differs only from the Roman precipice in this, that the victim seldom reaches the bottom.

I shall conclude the subject by a curious specimen of Armatan conveyancing, which I literally was witness to myself, and to which indeed I was a party, before its mysteries were known to me.

As I was sitting at dinner with Morven and a large company, a coach suddenly drove up to the door, when the person it belonged to

coming up to me with great seeming satisfaction said—"I am delighted to have found you at last, as I am borrowing money upon my estate, and could not have touched a mite if I had missed you." I was almost struck dumb with astonishment, and could not guess what he meant, until he told me I was the legal proprietor of his whole estate, and that I must therefore convey it to the lender of the money. —"Good God, Sir," I answered, "you must mistake me for some other person, as I do not remember ever to have seen you in my life."— "Oh yes, you have," said Morven, "he dined with you at my house soon after you were shipwrecked, and I remember he then said, it would be a pleasant thing to make such a use of so extraordinary a stranger."—I was now, of course, obliged to say, that under Morven's guidance I was at his command, though I could not comprehend what was intended.—The coach was now emptied out, when I signed my name, I believe twenty times, upon different writings, which of course I could not read, and then

made my bow to him, heartily glad to get away; but Morven stopped me by saying, that I must wait until the boot was unloaded, as the deeds disposed of had all been in the body of the coach, and I was detained above half an hour longer.—I found afterwards, upon inquiry, that I stood in the place of nominal B. and was proprietor in law to this troublesome man's use.

There is yet another evil which visits, or rather overwhelms, all their jurisdictions, though it bears the heaviest when landed property is in question, but it extends to the proceedings of all courts, and to almost all the transactions of mankind.—Upon every *page* of their voluminous mass of records, and evidence, and process, which if set fire to in Armata, though but a speck upon that planet, might not only be seen from our earth, but perhaps be viewed with alarm as a comet by all worlds—Yes—upon every *page* of all this accumulation of writing, there must be a miniature impression of their King; without which no suitor can be heard,

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nor a syllable of testimony be read before the Judge; and they sometimes exceed the value of the subjects in contest, which are abandoned, of course, to any knave who may be in possession— They are not political contrivances to excite awe and reverence for the Sovereign, but have been resorted to for revenue, and threaten in the end to destroy all the benefits of courts of justice.

I never was more affected than when I saw the virtue and wisdom of so many ages thus shamefully overthrown by the mad profusion of spendthrift governments in very modern times. I had thought it worth all the perils I had encountered, to be present in their ordinary courts; I had visited them almost daily, and it was more like enchantment than the imperfect condition of human affairs, to witness the dispatch and unerring justice with which the most complicated concerns were disentangled and decided; but after this sad communication, their tribunals appeared to me like painted sepulchres.—I found that little was left for the

suitors

suitors who succeeded, and the unsuccessful were often undone, nay, sometimes all of them together, and the lawyers whom they employed—of which I saw a most notable instance in the prison of the principal court, which I was carried as a curiosity to see.

In passing through the rooms of the prisoners, we observed four persons who were playing at cards together, when my conductor, who was still the same eminent advocate, desired me to stop and observe them—"That first," he said, (pointing to the man nearest us,) "is an honest baker with a large family, who brought a suit against his partner at the table, to recover about twenty pounds of your money for bread that he had sold him; but for which the other, who is a carpenter, could not pay, having a large family also, and his taxes to government in arrear; for which his little effects had been sold. —The baker prevailed in his suit, but the pictures of the sovereign, and the expenses of the proceeding, *beyond what he could charge to*

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his opponent, would have left him but little to receive, even if the carpenter could have paid; but receiving nothing at all, he took him to prison for the debt, which was swelled by the expenses to more than double the sum.—But the poor baker, thus receiving nothing from his prisoner, and not being able to pay his attorney for the proceedings and *the portraits*, he was sued himself, and was soon taken to prison also, and the plaintiff and defendant now sit opposite.—But the attorney was just in the same condition as his client, whom he had sued; as, by getting nothing from the baker, he was unable to pay for the portraits which the paper-merchant had sold him, and he was sued and carried to prison himself, where he met with the gentleman who is now *his* partner, viz. the attorney for the carpenter, he having been sued for *the portraits* also; which he had bought for the carpenter's defence—and being cast into the same prison *the gaoler has got the whole covey.*—They have not amongst them all the smallest coin in circulation, yet they are as eager at their

their game as if the fate of the universe was at stake on every card; and they pay one another with slips of paper, which they pleasantly enough call exchequer bills, as they are to be paid only by similar slips of paper when they become due."—I never witnessed such a scene.—It was inhuman to laugh as I did, but it would have been more than human to resist.—I wish that high councils of state, when a quarrel is engendering between nations, and peace or war are in the balance, would a little more consider the consequences before the die is cast; as nothing short of invasion and conquest can inflict upon a nation so severe an evil as a devouring taxation, which fastens upon all the springs of life.—But no revenue should ever approach the sanctuaries of justice, to drive their votaries into dungeons, whilst luxury can shew herself in the streets.

When from this pressure of taxation, and the entanglements of forms too technical and expensive, the law had ceased to be a plain and simple

remedy for the recovery of debts, the adminis-tration of justice, *from no faults of its own*, be-came unpopular, and many reformers started up. Temporary expedients were first resorted to— The public councils frequently throwing open the gates of the prisons throughout the whole country; but such acts of necessity produced as many sufferings as they redressed;—they could reach only those who were in custody when they passed, but could take no account of many more who were subject to imprison-ment by the insolvency of their debtors who were set free, and thus the ruined creditors of redeemed prisoners soon took their places, without any hope of redemption, until the intervals between such statutes had passed away.—This was a system of manifest injustice; yet such is the danger of meddling with old establishments, however imperfect, that although many able and benevolent statesmen clubbed all their talents for its reformation, their new law, even in its infancy, is more destructive of credit, and more injurious to both debtors and credit-

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ors than the old one which they undertook to reform.

The principle was to substitute a cession of property for the imprisonment of debtors; but the creditor, before he can enforce it, must establish his debt in the superior courts, by the same dilatory process, and under all the pressure of revenue, as if he were still to have the ultimate fruit of it under the ancient judgments and executions.—He may now, as formerly, deprive any person of his liberty whom he chuses to call his debtor, even before he is possessed of any judicial confirmation of his demand; yet he has no sooner obtained judgment against him, by a tedious suit, and at an expense in many cases beyond the amount of the debt, than the prison doors fly open, and the debtor, as if the proof of the debt entitled him to freedom from the consequences, has now only to offer what he has, or to say that he has nothing; and thus, after all the cost and delay of a solemn process, the creditor

ditor who sued him has only an equal claim with others *who were at no expense at all*, and even with collusive claimants, set up by the debtor, to cover such property as could not with safety be concealed.—Surely such a system is not merely defective, but is a dangerous nuisance.

If the cession of property be adopted as a general rule, it should not be left to the option of the *debtor only*, at the conclusion of a regular suit, but the *creditor* ought to have his election also *from the beginning*, and by the same *summary forms* as the debtor may resort to *in the end*, but this could not have been accomplished without throwing the whole jurisdiction over contracts into the hands of inferior magistrates, to the very extinction of our ancient courts of law, which would be exposed even to an insulting reproof, by having their immemorial jurisdictions swept away.—Upon the whole, therefore, the practice of imprisonment for debt had far better been reformed and modified, without rashly subverting our legal constitution, which

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it is too much the fashion to boast of yet to condemn.—The cession of property may be a wise and beneficial system, if applied with speedy and costless ceremonies to the insolvencies of the *commercial* world, where property is *large* and *tangible*, but when extended to the very lowest orders of the people, whose effects *can rarely be followed*, it holds out a dangerous temptation to fraud, and strikes at the very foundation of credit, by destroying all the securities of trust.

I had now been so long engaged in the examination of the laws of Armata, and so much pleased with my companions of the profession, who were most eminent and incorruptible persons, highly esteemed for their general learning and talents, that I almost resolved to think no more of our world, and to become an advocate in their courts.—They were highly diverted and pleased with my project, but suggested to me that their language was not easy—an objection however which I answered by observing, that

that Scotchmen flocked daily into London, and became intelligible by degrees.—To cut the matter short, I had set my mind, at last, upon the plan, and which was only defeated by a conspiracy against me of the most extraordinary description—Many witnesses having started up, and declared themselves ready to prove that I had practised there many years, *and for some reason or other had been expelled from the bar.*—I was astonished at this attempt, but what could be done to resist it? they were persons whose credit I had no means of impeaching, and I could prove no *alibi* without witnesses from the earth.

I consulted their great chief justice, who wished much to help me, but said he could give me no relief—and that he would tell me the reason the first time he saw me, which he soon afterwards did—*but the conversation was private.*

I now proceeded to examine the police of this

immense

immense city, in which there were many imperfections, but in my opinion often referable to a population which no magistracy could duly superintend, and to houses of entertainment for the lower orders multiplied beyond the calls of necessity, and too much cherished on account of the revenue they produced.—No vigilance could repress all the disorders they created, nor protect the moral character of the people, the debasement of which, in many instances, was frightful.—Thefts and robberies were almost of nightly occurrence, and so far was there from being any prospect of safety by sweeping away the gangs of old and hardened offenders, that *juvenile delinquency* maintained *a more depraved succession.*—THOUSANDS of *boys*, from the vices of parents, neglect of education, and want of employment, were to be found in the streets, the associates of profeſsed thieves, and of girls subsisting by prostitution, frequenting houses of the most infamous description, where they concealed and divided their plunder.

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I was the more attentive to those abuses, because LONDON itself is not free from them, and they cannot be removed but by striking at *their roots*.—The system of licenses to publicans should be totally changed, and the partialities with which they have been granted done away. —CHARACTER, *most respectably and cautiously certified*, ought to be the only qualification; severe punishment should attend irregularities and disorders, and no ESTABLISHED VICTUALLER *should be deprived of his license upon any pretence whatsoever, without trial by a jury*, instead of being, as heretofore, at the will of the justices of the peace; none of whom besides should license any houses of their own, nor be seen upon the bench when the titles to them are discussed.—I have a great respect for the magistrates of our country, and for none more than many of them in the metropolis—but no one ought to be placed in a situation which exposes him even to suspicion, nor sit in judgment when he has the remotest interest in the decision.

If all those provisions were enacted and duly executed, there would be fewer offences, because their shelters would be destroyed.—Publicans so selected and encouraged by the security of their possessions, whilst they acted with honesty and discretion, would become a kind of lower magistrates, and be sureties for the peace of the city.

Mendicity also, from the same causes, had become a shameful nuisance in Swaloal.—In the most populous cities of Europe, it is only disgusting from the wretchedness of the supplicants, but HERE compassion was constantly abused, and blunted by the most atrocious impostures.—A sovereignty of beggars had been long established with the most regular authorities, and the streets throughout all that wide extent, which we call the Bills of Mortality, were assigned for the walks of the pretended paupers, many of which had become inheritances, and had descended through several generations.—The following instance of long-

 practised

practised iniquity I considered it my ill fortune to detect: because, though it is a high duty to the public to expose such evils, yet their exposure bears heavily upon many innocent people, and steels our hearts against the most genuine objects of compassion.

The charity of the fair Morvina was proverbial, and our doors had long been surrounded by the poor of every description.—There was an old man who peculiarly interested us, being one hundred and three years of age, confirmed by a certificate which seemed to be as old as himself; the writing being much torn, and the seal imperfect.—We were constantly attended also by a woman, who had lost her eyes from lightning, which were covered with black patches of silk, and by a man, her companion, who from palsy had lost the use of both his legs, and was drawn on a kind of sledge through the streets.—There was, from time to time, besides, another wretched woman with six little children, and near delivery of a seventh; all these paupers, and many

more, were almost daily relieved and fed, until an accident occurred for our deliverance.—To state it in almost a word, my watch was stolen and found upon one of them, who, to save himself from the gallows, informed me *privately* that we were the victims of imposition, and that if I would disguise myself, he would carry me to where I might see the real condition of those on whom pity had been thrown away.

I was pleased with the scheme, and having secured myself from discovery, he accompanied me at the time appointed to a public breakfast of the fraternity, before they dressed for their rounds.

On entering the room I could not help thinking that my repentant conductor, as he described himself, had some new fraud in agitation, since I saw nothing that could give me the least expectation of meeting the wretches we had so long supported—The company were seated round a long table, where neither

disease nor old age were to be seen, but on the contrary, above twenty well-dressed, healthy, happy people, regaling themselves with the best fare, and pledging one another in their cups; on the ringing of a bell their president told them to deliver in their accounts, and to assume their different characters for the day—the audit was soon over, and after they had been gone about a quarter of an hour, I saw all of them return, *and every one of my friends amongst the rest*—They were exactly the same as I had always seen them, and their real characters and descriptions were as follows—The old man of 103 had not seen 30, he had been a drummer in a regiment, and was just returned from transportation before his time.*—The woman who had lost her eyes, which were now covered again with patches, my conductor had shewn me in the room, where instead of their being obscured by lightning, they flashed lightning in every glance.

* The Armatans transport their felons, as we do, to a very distant region.

—She

—She was a beautiful creature, not more than seventeen years of age, and hired for the purpose by the gang.—The paralytic patient, whose sledge stood in the passage, was cutting his capers in the way to it; as indeed he very well might, having been a rope-dancer at one of the smaller theatres, from which he had lately been discharged, on his being discovered picking a pocket behind the scenes—The pregnant lady was among the last, as her pillow had not been carefully adjusted, and she had to pay the mothers of the six children who were going out with her, as they always attended to receive the ready money for the day.

My *felonious* friend now made me a signal to be gone, as my disguise, he said, might perhaps be discovered, which would not only be ruinous to him but might be dangerous to myself.

For the evils I had witnessed, to some extent and in some shape or other, there is, perhaps, no remedy in a large city; and we ought not to

suffer the knowledge of their existence, *though highly useful*, to make us cold to the sufferings of our fellow-creatures.—We may often be mistaken in the true objects of charity, but if from the impression of imposture, a real one should be passed by, *how fatal might be the mistake!* In times like the present, we should suspend the very remembrance of it, and go forth into the streets to take our chance of being deceived.

Before I leave the subject of human sufferings, I must shock the feelings of the reader by taking notice of a most barbarous custom in Armata, wholly inconsistent with the benevolent character of her people.

Although their mechanical inventions had reached such perfection that almost nothing was left for human hands to perform without aids to assist labour and to avert dangers, yet they persisted in devoting the unprotected children of the poor to misery, disease, and death, by a practice, not yet reformed amongst our-

selves,

selves, of cleansing their fire-places by climbing boys instead of by machines; frequently goading them on by sharp instruments applied to the soles of their feet, when to escape suffocation they have halted in their ascent.

I frequently and loudly remonstrated against this horrible cruelty, and on being told, *with indifference*, of the forms of their houses which made machinery difficult, though it had failed in nothing else, *I lost all patience.*—"Talk not to me (I said) of the antiquity of your houses, or of their unsuitableness for the performance of your duty to God and your fellow-creatures. —If you will not alter them in your capital, where the abuses are so afflicting, HEAVEN may reform your manners as in ancient times the vices of nations have been rebuked;—Earthquake, which has hitherto been confined to other countries, may be let loose to tumble them on your heads."

To Englishmen also let me lift up my voice:—

 "You

"You have raised an immortal monument of fame and glory by the abolition of the Slave Trade throughout the world, and will you suffer a worse slavery to debase even your own children, whose colour, if colour indeed can be a degradation, was not given by Heaven but by yourselves?"*

The religions of new countries having always been considered by travellers as interesting objects of curiosity, I shall now make a few short remarks upon the Armatan church.

I found they had a Revelation as we have—Simple and eloquent, bearing throughout the stamp of divine truth, communicating, like our own, a fallen condition and a mediatorial redemption.—It is published by authority, and circulated as the universal source of faith and morals. Their forms of prayer are solemn and impres-

* *I have just heard with great satisfaction, that whatever may be the construction of houses in Armata, our own throughout all England will admit machinery.*

impressive, composed in former times by the most eloquent fathers of her communion, and established by law to give uniformity to public worship. The dignified clergy were distinguished for their piety and learning, setting an useful example to inferior pastors, which was *generally* though not always followed.

Their Articles of Belief are also published to give a distinct character to their national establishment, which might otherwise be corrupted and degraded by ignorant or designing men.—They were drawn up with great wisdom and moderation in very difficult times, but at some more favourable period they should have been re-considered.—The utmost care ought to be employed in the composition of such a sacred code; and the doctrines it comprehends should be divested of all that is dark and mysterious. Not that such doctrines ought therefore to be rejected when supported by the authority of Scripture, but they should rather be maintained in preaching *than rigidly insisted upon as tests.*

I can-

I cannot perhaps better illustrate this interesting subject, than by giving the reader a short account of a conversation I had with an eminent member of their communion; most virtuous in his life, and devoted to the practice of every good work.—He deeply lamented the growth of what we call *Sectaries*, and dwelt with great anxiety upon the unhappy state of his country, predicting at no very distant period the utter extinction of the church. —Clear as, he said, were the Articles of her religious faith, they had by no means been universally accepted, and that, although those who rejected them were not only excluded from the priesthood but from many civil offices and distinctions, yet they still persevered in their own opinions, and were corrupting the world by their unbeliefs.—*The great bulk of the Articles* would, he admitted, have been accepted, but that *some of them*, though standing upon divine authority, were wickedly rejected; a heresy the more detestable, as their sacred writings were not only circulated by authority

for

for public instruction, but by the charity of many pious persons were now universally read.

I here interrupted to observe, that I did not altogether comprehend him.—" How," I asked, " can your people be thus invited by public law to study a book of which they are told that God himself is the author, yet be expected to receive its interpretation from MAN, and be charged moreover with wickedness for having an honest opinion of their own; I do not at all object to your national church for adopting and adhering to the most approved doctrines, but upon what principle of policy do you exclude men from your ministry, much more from any office in the state on account only of different impressions of the divine nature, or of the hopes and expectations of mankind, as they faithfully believe them to be derived from the word of God, so given to them, without comment, by both church and state, which concur in such exclusions?—I must suppose that the professed beliefs of such persons thus shut out from your

com-

communion are either so manifestly erroneous as to carry with them the evidence of fraud and irreligion, or that they involve political tenets which might endanger the establishments of your country."

"I am not prepared," (said the aged and reverend pastor,) "to make either of such charges upon those who are yet properly excluded from our sanctuary, and even from some of our civil functions.—The times have undoubtedly passed away since disaffection to our government can be justly imputed to them; neither can I go the length of saying that their beliefs, or rather their unbeliefs, ought to be considered as proofs of irreligion or fraud; but can any church receive communicants who do not accept her communications, or admit ministers who deny her creeds?"—"*That,*" I answered, "no man of common sense can require, but why in matters *not absolutely essential to faith or morals*, and of *most obscure and doubtful import*, do you not leave men to them-

themselves?—Why do you hold up *mysteries* to *others* as tests of acceptation which you do not even agree upon among *yourselves?* and if you dread such immaterial differences of opinion, why do you embalm bodies of men by laws and statutes, which otherwise might disperse and perish?"

"We complain of their *perverseness*," replied the good old man, "which ought surely to have a mark set upon it, though of a gentle character.—To give you one instance, among many others, of their obstinacy and blindness, what do you say to their refusing even to attest their belief in all things *visible or invisible?*" I acknowledged that this was certainly *most provoking;* though, perhaps, its *generality* might alarm tender consciences.—If they doubted indeed the existence of God because invisible, I should condemn and reject them, since the Deity could not be visible to mortal sight, but ALL THINGS," I said, "was rather a *startling proposition.*" "Not at all," said the good old man,

man, "when in the mouth of the church that pronounces it, as it can *then* only mean *all things which the Church believes*."—"And pray, Sir," said I, "what are they?"—He here looked at his watch, saying, that at another time he would converse with me farther, but that he was engaged to go out.—Suspecting, however, (though I am persuaded without foundation,) that he was rather puzzled and wished to evade the question, I said I waved it for the present as it might run into length, and that I wished only to revert to the absurdity of circulating the Scripture without comment, yet insisting upon their own interpretation.—"We have found that to be an error," he replied, "and are now beginning to correct it by notes and commentaries of our own."

"*That* you may undoubtedly do," I rejoined with warmth, "as learned commentators, *leaving other men also to their own expositions*; but if you were to do this in England, *upon the footing of authority*, we should tax you with relapsing

relapsing into the very errors of the catholic church, by beating up for proselytes to your own establishment, instead of publishing the pure word of God as proceeding, through inspiration, from himself.—This was the damnable usurpation of the papacy in the world I came from, and after having shed our blood for its extinction, we should hardly submit to it again.—*Any man*, with us, may write what notes upon the Bible he pleases, but *no man*, *nor the state itself*, can put upon it any fetters of the law."

The old man made no reply to this, and I rather thought he was ashamed of what he had said.

I found after all when the differences came to be sifted between the Armatan church and *many, at least*, who had ranged themselves under various establishments of dissent, that they had arisen, *for the most part, from the adoption of mysteries as inexorable articles of faith*, instead of softening them by expressions

that,

that, without departing from the best interpretations of Scripture, might give a fair latitude to conscientious men, who, whilst they reverenced the Established Church and in general embraced its doctrines, could not honestly swear to an implicit belief in matters so deep that the human mind could not fathom them.

The excellent old man seemed to feel the force of this, yet such is the dominion of prejudice over the most enlightened understandings, that he made only this reply—"We have done every thing to open our arms to all christians who would subscribe our Articles—We have held out *in one hand* large ecclesiastical preferments, and mortifying exclusions *in the other*, yet the *former* have been rejected and the *latter* patiently endured.—I ought however to do justice to numbers who have consented to become priests *with benefices*, by swearing in the end to what before they had utterly denied."—He raised his voice at the conclusion of this sentence as if an irresistible demonstration had

been

been wound up; and so indeed there had, because the proof was irresistible that his church had shut her doors against the highest proofs of religious sincerity, and thrown them open to self-interest and falsehood.

I did not chuse, however, to mortify him by this declaration, but contented myself with repeating my admission that every national church was fully justified in publishing its own creeds, and that such professions should, in *a religious sense*, be considered as the national faith, but not so as to touch the consciences of men by exclusions of any description for differing only as to *mysteries*, the truth of which no church could perfectly know, and which were immaterial if they could be known.—" How far," I said, " are we distant from that beautiful bridge, which promises to be as immortal as the victory it has recorded?"—" Above a mile," he answered, " but I cannot comprehend the meaning of your question."—" Then I will tell you," I answered, " in a word."

"*Same* of the mysteries which you insist upon, and make the parents of a widely-spreading dissent, are so immaterial *to the essential truth and character of divine revelation*, that perhaps, on that very account, they are covered as with a veil from the presumptuous mind of man; and so little do I seek to remove it, that if an angel were now standing upon the centre arch of the bridge I point to, I would not walk through the rain that is falling, to know from him which opinion concerning them was best, so as I knew that God had through redemption received me, and *in any manner* had enlightened me with his holy spirit.—It is most fit, nevertheless, that your Scriptures should in those points be examined, and that the best expositions should be supported and illustrated by your church, but they should neither be made proscriptive articles of belief, nor subjects of contention amongst mankind.—Her establishment, as you have described it, is entitled to reverence for its purity and wisdom, and if all her ministers would only preach their own evangelical

gelical doctrines, one half of the chapels that within a few years have started up and outnumbered your steeples, would probably tumble down of themselves, and as she has not half room enough for her own congregations, she might then build even cathedrals from their ruins, and bring back into her bosom dissenters of all descriptions, who now threaten to swallow her up."

I intended this advice to be private, and that it should never travel from thence into our own world, though the gossip of a traveller has revealed it; because, though I sincerely honour the Church of England, and hold by her doctrines, as the purest, and the best, yet I wish that our national religion, as well as our civil state, should be balanced by a popular constitution, and that the free spirit of the dissenters should continue.

Absurd, enthusiastic ardour ought to be exposed and discountenanced, because it brings

 religion

religion into contempt, *but it consists with my own knowledge* that many persons in England, of the purest lives, and of the most exalted wisdom and virtue, have been reproached or sneered at as *Methodists*, only for maintaining and believing the very same doctrines which OUR SAVIOUR preached when upon the earth.

CHAP-

CHAPTER VII.

The Author resolves to leave Armata, and to return to the Earth—He prepares for his Voyage, regains the connecting Channel, and passes it in safety, but is afterwards wrecked on the Coast of Ireland, and proceeds from thence to London.

THE enjoyments of this great and delightful city were now drawing to a close.—I had been long passionately attached to Morvina, though I have not troubled the reader with the progress of my passion.—Her accomplishments and beauty absorbed every thought, but, alas! they were suddenly embittered by the dreadful communication of her father, that, though he had not betrothed, nor had she engaged herself to any of the illustrious suitors who were pursuing her, yet that I must not think of impeding her advancement in the world by my attentions, which, he said, had been observed.—What could I answer to this, or how could I complain?—Let the reader indeed only figure to himself a man dropping down upon our surface, an alien

not only to our country, but to our world, disputing the prize of the finest woman in London, and asking her father's preference, however much he might be his friend—Need I add that my own thoughts rebuked me?—I felt all I owed to the noble-minded Morven, but my honour forbad me to promise what it might not enable me to perform.—I saw Morvina almost at the moment, to whom he had given similar commands, and who, *for the same reason*, had *silently received them.*

I shall not attempt to affect the reader with a *tender story*.—All people who are in love are so very much the same, that it may be one reason why the general run of novels so strongly resemble one another.—It is a most difficult kind of composition.—There is but one Tom Jones, one Guy Mannering, and *Landlords* are more apt to distress us for their *rents*, than to delight us with such *tales* as only one of them I ever heard of had to tell.—Yet were I not restrained by the fear of failure, I might be

tempted

tempted to work up into a scene of deep interest our desperate plan of an elopement from one world to another; for no less an adventure our mutual passion had the instant daring to project, and I had secretly engaged an adventurous navigator to run the hazard of our exploit,—but worse evils than parental rejection lurked behind: She was obliged to continue the race of dissipation on the high road to a settlement of her father's choice, instead of calmly retiring with the object of her own; and the race, alas! was a short one—At an assembly, such as I have but too faithfully described, the dancers becoming breathless, in a small and crowded apartment, all the windows were thrown open, and the air rushing in upon her delicate frame, now more susceptible from anxiety and agitation, she was seized with a violent fever which; in a very few days, proved fatal to all our hopes.—I now revealed to Morven our unhappy secret, and as all expectations on this side the grave were extinguished, his friendship and compassion admitted my visits even to the last moment of

life, when fainting in my arms her angel form seemed to grow lighter and lighter, and to escape from me with her dying breath—But surely, wherever our lots may be cast hereafter, the souls of those who loved as we did can never be divided.

I was now resolved that nothing should prevent my immediate attempt to return to the earth.—I collected all my nautical observations, and Morven having tendered me his purse to any extent, I continued the engagement which I had secretly begun, and prepared for my voyage, doubtful and dangerous as it was.—The passage, I found, would in its beginning be circuitous, requiring only a coaster's skill, until my vessel should reach the open sea; I put her therefore under the care of her owner, and accepted the offer of my beloved friend to accompany me himself to the more distant shore, where I might commit myself at once to the only Pilot that could then shape the course I was to pursue—the Divine Providence which had

had watched over me with so many signal deliverances from the beginning of my adventurous life.

My ship now left the port, and in four days the accounts having reached us that she was anchored at the appointed place, we set out immediately to join her.

On our arrival next day I learned from Morven, that the King was then at a palace near the sea, and that it was fit I should be presented before I sailed. I had indeed, and with deep regret, gone through the same ceremony on taking leave of a Prince, the very pattern of hospitality and kindness, who from my first landing had received me as a frequent and familiar guest.—His consort was a foreign Princess, the daughter of a King, and all the kings of the earth, from her high qualifications, might be proud of such an illustration of royal birth.

I was now presented to the Sovereign, whom

I found singularly graceful and accomplished—he had been bred in the general world, the best school for princes, as for other men.—Fame also with her trumpet was sounding, almost at the same moment, the approach of another generation of his royal house, and Morven, as if he had been read in Shakspeare, said he thought he saw the Genius of Armata holding up a glass "*which shewed him many more.*"

I was received most graciously, and need not say how highly gratified I returned from a scene so interesting and so new.—I should like, indeed, to see how people would stare, and to hear what they would say, IF THE MAN IN THE MOON were to be presented at St. James's or Carlton House—Yet what better was I in *Armata*, than that honourable gentleman would be *here*; who, though the inhabitant of a long known and domestic planet, has never yet advanced to a higher distinction amongst us, than to have his portrait swinging upon a sign-post, as a notice that ale is to be sold.

Though

Though I have never been a courtier, I have not suppressed the poetical flight of Morven respecting the Genius of Armata; because it is not useless in a monarchy like our own to separate a kind-hearted interest in our native princes from the *indiscriminate* support of any ministers they may employ;—the *first*, when honestly kept within the limits of duty to the people, gives dignity and security to the state;—the *second*, (too often a blind, unprincipled following,) is a pernicious homage, degrading to the individuals, and destructive to the constitution of our country.—A firm adherence to political principles, and to the friendships they create among public men, is a great antidote to corruption in parliament.—I honour those who support ministers from such considerations, as much as those who may oppose them, but the ranks are always swelled by those who range themselves under no standard but that which is planted BY THE MINISTER OF THE DAY.

My observation is *general*, and points *to no particular statesmen, nor to eny parties.*

My vessel now lay within a mile from the shore, fully equipped for my adventurous voyage, and ready with her sails all loose to receive me.—I fell into the arms of my generous deliverer, embracing him with tears of gratitude and affection, and my boat being upon the strand, I was very soon on board.—The wind was fair, and when the night closed in upon us, heaven seemed to smile upon my undertaking with all her multitude of stars—the polar constellation bidding me as it were depend upon it for my course, as much as if I had been on the earth.—I knew indeed I was secure; as even a million of miles on the one side or the other, could not in the smallest degree affect its bearings upon any of our planets so inconceivably distant.—They have a kind of magnet in Armata, but I knew it not.—I looked up only to those other worlds to conduct me to my own.

We reached in a few days the tranquil ocean, and I marked well the peculiar birds and the sportive fishes which seemed to welcome me on my return.—The sea now becoming strongly agitated, though the wind even slackened, I thought that the connecting channel must be near, and my hopes were not disappointed; but the entrance was so tremendous as we approached it, that my courage almost forsook me. —It was as black as Hell, and the sounds which re-echoed between the rocks were hideous and distracting.—My crew (*though Armatan sailors*) were for a moment discomfited by this scene of horror, but I reminded them that God was in the whirlwind as in the zephyr, and a song and a dram soon settled all their fears.—As we were sucked deeper into the channel the water became less convulsed, and in a few hours, the current becoming uniformly smooth, and running with the same velocity as in my voyage outward, I knew to a certainty we were in the returning course, and took my measures accordingly.—As nothing could now occur during the months

which must elapse before the gulph could be cleared which divided our worlds, I ordered up our dead lights, lashed the helm a-midships, furled every sail, and, encouraging my crew by the most hospitable indulgence, we lived as jollily as if we had been on shore.—Our sea stock of every kind was abundant, and I had no more fears for the result of my voyage, than if my cargo had been coals on a voyage from Newcastle to London.—There were no dangers to encounter at the other aperture of the current, and the remainder of the passage was over our own seas.

The longest day will have an end—we emerged from the channel after a transit of *nearly* the same period as outward, having been three calendar months, four days, and seven hours in its rapid tide and under its sable shadow.—We now pursued our course without any unusual incident till we made the coast of Ireland, when a sudden storm arose which I tremble to think of, and shall not attempt to describe.—The winds,

or

or rather all the elements combined, blew directly upon the shore; at midnight we were embayed, and before the day dawned, a brighter and an eternal day rose, I trust, upon my brave and hapless companions; as the vessel having taken the ground and overset above two cables' length from the shore, EVERY SOUL OF THEM PERISHED.—I jumped overboard myself the moment she struck, and being a dexterous swimmer, which gave me confidence amidst waves that seemed contending with the clouds, I was dashed to and fro till I felt something strike against my breast.—It was a spar from the vessel, and clinging to it I was saved.

The coast was thinly inhabited, or rather almost a desert; but a few honest and kind-hearted people came down to the beach in the morning and comforted me in their little cabins near the sea.—They seemed much surprized at the floating fragments of the vessel, as, though t[illegible]ructure of it was demolished, the timbers,

they

they said, were quite different from any they had ever seen. It was not long before we were visited by a neighbouring magistrate, with several people from the higher country, who set about the construction of a raft to preserve, if possible, some remains of so curious a wreck; but the wind coming off the land, and, as is often the case in such tempests, blowing with equal fury, every attempt to save even an atom of her was in vain.

After a few hours rest I thanked the good people for their kindness to me, and when they had dried my clothes by a peat fire, and given me a glass of some very strong spirit, I set out on foot, and meeting every where with the most friendly, hospitable reception from the brave and honest sons of St. Patrick, I arrived safe at Dublin, where, finding credit for a few pounds with a merchant who had formerly known me, I crossed the channel in a vessel bound for the Thames, and, having some acquaintances at

Black-

Blackheath, I arrived there on the 17th of October, and on the 19th in London, where I have continued ever since, but am now in daily expectation of receiving my dispatches for a voyage with a commercial fleet.

THE END.

London: Printed by C. Roworth,
Bell-yard, Temple-bar.